

**Education is as education does**  
PFLAG, Alternative Family Project reach out to the teachers reaching out to kids.  
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**Tell it to the Marine**  
Gay vets have a new guy who asks and tells.  
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**Cabaret fare**  
Scrubby Koldewyn unveils 'The Untamed Stage.'  
see Arts section



# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 29 • No. 9 • 4 March 1999

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Cynthia Laird

Tom Calvanese of the planning council is spearheading the look at the AIDS Office Ryan White funds.

## HIV planning council calls for sweeping assessment of AIDS Office

by Cynthia Laird

The San Francisco HIV Health Services Planning Council, which prioritizes federal Ryan White CARE Act funds locally, has issued an open solicitation for proposals to conduct a wide-ranging assessment of the Department of Public Health's HIV Health Services Division. That division, also known as the AIDS Office, is the grantee that receives all of San Francisco's CARE allocation, then disburses funds to contractors – often nonprofit community-based agencies – in accordance with the planning council's established priorities.

The assessment will focus on DPH's HIV Health Services Division, which oversees CARE funds. For fiscal year 1998-99, the city's CARE grant was approximately \$36.4 million; of that, approximately \$1.8 million went to DPH to administer the

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NGLTF's Kerry Lobel and staff announce the kick-off of 'Equality Begins at Home,' an initiative to promote LGBT equality in all 50 states.

## Bay Area queers gear up for 'Equality Begins at Home'

by Cynthia Laird

A weekend of political activism by adults and youth will take place in Sacramento beginning Saturday, March 20 when lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people from across the state converge in Sacramento. The event will be the California gay community's observance of Equality Begins at Home, an

effort by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) to have rallies and other events in all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, between March 21 and 27.

NGLTF planned Equality Begins at Home as a major initiative to push state lawmakers to support a platform of equality. From California to Maine, LGBT people will come out and speak up in simultaneous events nationwide, most of which will take place at

state capitols.

"It's getting more impressive, there are now close to 200 events and every single state is participating," Tracey Conaty, NGLTF's communications director, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "It's a momentous event for our movement. It's really resonating with our people across the country."

She added that the organization hopes LGBT communities across the country will

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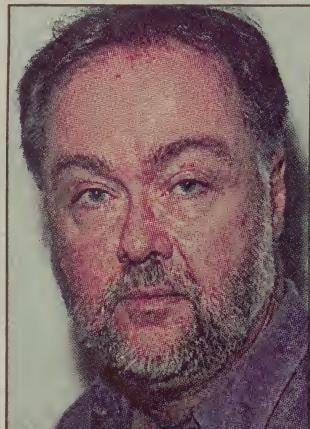
## SF Main Library staff seeks justice for local gay man

by Mark Norby

Early three years after a gay San Francisco librarian was fired amid accusations of child molestation, a judge has dismissed the criminal charges in the case but the controversy continues. Current library staff members familiar with the case are calling for action to restore the job and reputation of a dedicated man they believe was grossly mistreated.

John Philbrook worked for 11 years as assistant librarian to the city and in the children's center of the San Francisco Main Library. The San Francisco Foundation honored him for his hard work and exemplary service to the city, and the mayor's office designated him a "community treasure" for his work with the city's youth, especially his work with the less-advantaged children of San Francisco's Tenderloin District.

But Philbrook's career came to an abrupt halt in April 1996 when Jesse Huynh, a 17-year-old hired youth worker at the library, accused Philbrook of sexual molestation and reported those charges to head management at the library. Several employees of the library who knew Huynh and who were close to Philbrook believe Huynh's charges may



tion, especially those who voiced concern about the city's New Main Library at San Francisco's Civic Center.

In fact, Philbrook was fired one week after the opening of the new library, a building he considered of questionable suitability from the beginning. As plans for its construction began to surface in 1991, Philbrook and several colleagues reacted to the future building's challenging new designs by submitting a petition to the architects and to the San Francisco Library Commission, presenting the concerns of those who would use the building most.

The petition highlighted inefficient use of space, the likelihood of "sick building syndrome" due to designs that focused on style rather than function, and the probable threat to the health of patrons and library staff from new implements – like toxic chemicals that would be used to treat furniture and clean the wall-to-wall carpeting – necessary in maintaining the new facility.

The petition was sharply criticized by both the mayor's office and by proponents of the new building who thought that spending nearly \$100 million was not only prudent, but also necessary in a world-class city. To the displeasure of library management –

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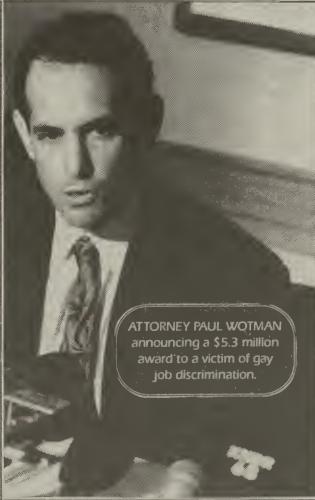
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## Royal scepter in new hands



Rick Gerharter

San Francisco's newest monarchs — Her Most Imperial Majesty Sheba, Empress XXXIII of SF, and Emperor XXV, H.M.J.M. T.J. Istvan — were crowned in a glamorous Gift Center pageant on February 27, 1999. As everyone awaited the voting results, some of the assembled aristocracy, decked out in their regal finery, retained their dignified comportment. Others, however, let their tiaras down and got good and merry.

## Gay couples to wed at City Hall

by Cynthia Laird

Once again, San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown will host his third annual same-sex "wedding" ceremony on Friday, March 26. The first ceremony was held March 25, 1996 in the Herbst Theatre and drew international media attention; an estimated 150 couples are expected this year, with attendance anticipated at 2,000 people.

The wedding ceremony is not legally binding, but is a symbolic recognition of gay and lesbian couples.

This year, the ceremony will be held in the magnificently refurbished rotunda in City Hall at 6 p.m., preceded by a catered reception in the North Light Court at 5:30. The mayor invites everyone who has ever registered as a domestic partner in San Francisco to participate in the event. Additionally, couples from throughout California are invited to participate in the ceremony and join in a group

photo on the marble staircase.

"I want to put a human face on gay and lesbian relationships for the citizens of California to see before they are bombarded with anti-gay ads for the Knight initiative," Brown said, referring to state Senator Pete Knight's (R-Palmade) measure slated for the March 2000 ballot that would ban same-sex marriage in California.

"As we did in 1996 when the national debate on same-sex marriage was launched, we will again be in the forefront of educating the public about these loving and committed relationships," the mayor said.

The mayor also announced that the popular raffle of "wedding gifts" will again be held this year.

Mayoral aide Michael Colbruno told the Bay Area Reporter that the invitation to couples outside of San Francisco is something new this year, and that the city has had special certificates made for them. About 4,000 gay and straight couples are currently registered as domestic partners in the city.

San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano will co-emcee the event with Brown. Members of the Board of Supervisors will also join the mayor in performing ceremonies.

For the second year, Just Desserts will create the wedding cake for the event. Decorator Richard Salinas will create a majestic tiered cake in subdued versions of the rainbow flag colors. Each of the seven layers will form a different band of the rainbow, decorated with a "whimsical, fondant applique." In order to give all 300 newlyweds a cake slice, the creation, including frosting, will reach a height of almost 3 feet. Same-sex figurines — two brides and two grooms — will adorn the top layer. ▼

Interested couples need to sign up for the event by calling the County Clerk's office at (415) 554-4956. To make raffle donations or get more information, call (415) 554-6974.

## Women's summit scholarship deadline nears

by Cynthia Laird

Talk show host, entrepreneur, and actress Oprah Winfrey will serve as a keynote speaker for the second annual Mayor's Summit for Women, scheduled for Friday, April 16 at the Moscone Center in downtown San Francisco. While the ticket price is \$75 per person, the same as last year, a limited number of scholarships are available and the deadline for applying is Monday, March 15, organizers said.

Early registration is recommended; the summit runs from 7 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Joining Winfrey as a keynote speaker will be Dr. Lorraine Monroe, author of *Nothing is Impossible*.

As with last year's event, a number of local women have done outreach work and the conference promises to bring together women from all walks of life — from students to professional women, full-time mothers, and senior women. One innovation to

the 1999 summit will allow those women to be heard as never before, with an interactive audience response device. With the push of a button, moderators can take an instant survey of the attendees, in a revealing snapshot of their opinions and lifestyles.

Lesbian surgeon Dr. Kate O'Hanlan is one of the featured speakers. O'Hanlan, a cancer specialist, is also dedicated to the issues of women's health and is the author of *Natural Menopause*. She also chairs the Stanford Nutrition Committee and is involved in research on health issues facing lesbians and gay men.

The theme of this year's summit is "Continuing to Give Today's Woman Direction for Tomorrow." The four topics of the one-day event: "Our Health," "Our Education," "Our Families," and "Our Selves," were chosen from surveys completed by the thousands of women who attended last year's gathering.

After the success of last year's conference involving and empow-

ering so many Bay Area women, the mayor said a second summit was a natural. "Looking across at that great sea of diversity, I knew from the moment we gathered together that we were really on to something," the mayor stated.

Many other women are scheduled to speak at the summit, including Delaine Eastin, state superintendent of public instruction; Dr. Leslie R. Wolfe, president of Washington D.C.'s Center for Women Policy Studies and an expert on women's issues, including HIV/AIDS; Dr. Helen Rodriguez-Trias, co-founder of the Pacific Institute for Women's Health in Los Angeles; Valerie Coleman Morris, a New York-based anchor for CNN Financial News' *In Play and Trading Places*; and journalist and breast cancer survivor Linda Ellerbee. ▼

For scholarship information and applications, call (415) 978-5920; to register call (800) 255-3976. Child care will be available.

# Gay mayoral candidate unveils Muni charter amendment

by Cynthia Laird

**S**an Francisco residents are virtually assured of voting on at least one City Charter amendment relating to the beleaguered Muni system this November. A task force set up by Mayor Willie Brown has proposed a restructuring of the system that would be a charter amendment; the Rescue Muni rider group has announced it is collecting signatures for its charter amendment proposal; and on Tuesday, March 2, openly gay mayoral candidate Jim Reid kicked off his campaign and announced, yes, his own charter amendment for fixing Muni.

Both Rescue Muni and Reid's proposals are in the signature gathering stage – each has until July to gather 44,888 valid signatures, or 10 percent of the electorate – to qualify for the November ballot.

At his campaign kick-off, Reid, 48, a retired independent contractor, said he welcomes the debate on all three proposals. "I think they will conflict and that's good," he said. "Conflict creates discussion and I certainly intend to fight for a charter amendment that re-

quires the people running Muni to ride Muni."

Reid, who got 16,390 votes in his unsuccessful bid for supervisor last November, formally launched his campaign for mayor on the steps of City Hall surrounded by about 10 supporters. A small crowd stopped to listen to his platform, which in addition to fixing Muni includes working to solve the homeless situation and litter.

Reid is focused on his three main issues and his campaign has confidence, but he is considered an underdog because he lacks money and probably won't spend over \$100,000. Brown spent over \$2 million to win the race four years ago and the mayor's other declared challenger, former political consultant Clint Reilly, is a millionaire.

"I take my candidacy seriously," Reid said. "I'm not a politician and have no political debt."

An article in last week's *Bay Area Reporter* detailed Reid's recent stint spending nine days in various homeless shelters around the city, in an effort to study that problem so that he could come up with longterm solutions.

With three potential charter amendments heading to voters this fall, Reid said that Muni will

be fixed "one way or another."

Both the mayor's task force and Rescue Muni's proposals would also make Muni a quasi-independent agency. The Rescue Muni plan calls for the transit department to become part of the Department of Parking and Traffic. The city's proposal calls for the formation of a new commission.

Unlike the other two proposed charter amendments, Reid's would set up a Transit Authority Board whose members would be chosen as follows: three would be elected by city voters; three would be elected by registered transit riders who live in the city; and three would be elected by transit workers who are city employees. The board would also be responsible for hiring a public transit manager, subject to approval of the Board of Supervisors. The supervisors would need a three-fourths vote to veto any action taken by the transit board. Additionally, the proposal requires the mayor to ride a different Muni route each month for at least two hours. The transit board directors would also be required to ride Muni to and from work every day and document the travel in order to get paid an annual salary of \$96,000 each. ▼

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# Mark Leno initiates two DP measures

by Cynthia Laird

**S**an Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno initiated actions Monday, February 22 to recognize same-sex partners on applicable city paperwork, and asking city agencies to demonstrate how they comply with a 1998 executive order compelling equal treatment of domestic partners and spouses.

Leno asked the City Attorney's office to draft legislation that would require all city departments to have a designation for domestic partner status on all official forms that require people to identify their marital status. Leno was quick to point out that departments routinely update and improve their commonly used forms, and that the transition could be made in a cost efficient manner.

To show the need for such legislation, the supervisor displayed a death certificate filled out by a man for his deceased domestic partner. There is no specific listing for domestic partner on the form, and the surviving partner was prevented from listing himself as a spouse. Because he was serving as executor of his domestic partner's will, the death certificate inaccurately lists him as power of attorney.

"It is a simple matter of respect for our citizens who are domestic partners, that our city agencies provide official recognition to

them," said Leno. "It doesn't make sense for the city to legally recognize domestic partnership and then diminish the validity of that relationship by not recognizing it in practice. As a basic record-keeping practice, we want to know which city departments domestic partners access and what they provide to the city through those departments."

Leno said he believes that changing the city's forms and pursuing better record-keeping can actually save paperwork for city employees who are registered as domestic partners. "It simply does not make sense that you can be an employee of San Francisco and a registered domestic partner in San Francisco, but still have to fill out an additional affidavit to apply for health benefits which they are entitled to receive," he said. "This is an additional burden which married employees do not have to undertake. Changing our forms now can have a ripple effect for agencies which currently require duplicate paperwork of domestic partners."

### Equal services to DPs

Leno has also launched an inquiry to 23 city departments, commissions, and offices asking them to show how they comply in specific areas with the mayor's executive order concerning equal treatment of the city's domestic partners and spouses. He's expecting to hear back from the governmental bodies within the

next 30 days, and some departments have already contacted Leno's office regarding the matter.

"There are subtle policy improvements which many departments can make to ensure they are offering the same services to San Francisco's domestic partners that they offer to married citizens," Leno said. "We want to make sure that when the city serves the general public, we afford the same conveniences, services, or advantages to domestic partners as we do to married persons."

City departments that are in full compliance with the non-discrimination law may still need to modify their policies to come into compliance with the spirit of the mayor's executive order. Leno offered examples ranging from who may retrieve a pet that's been impounded to visitation rights at adult probation facilities.

Mayor Willie Brown issued an executive order March 25, 1998 that directs each department to implement a complete domestic partners program. It states in part, "[I]t is my intention to offer every benefit possible to domestic partners within the jurisdiction of the law." According to Leno, "The mayor was absolutely clear in his intentions – equality to the full extent of the law. His office has followed up with departments, and we want to provide assistance with respect to certain policies which may or may not need modification." ▼

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## Wash sparkles at Universe



Jane Philpot/Orbit

A whole ton of fun brought down the house as Martha Wash performed an AIDS benefit concert for the Ark of Refuge at Club Universe, Saturday, February 27. Wash, who got her start with *Sylvester* back in the '70s, has had a successful solo career in the '90s as a dance club diva. She returned her good fortune by footing the bill for the round-trip air tickets from New York for her eight-member band. A big night from a lady with a really, mighty-really, good heart.

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Reverend Delores Berry

## Lesbian gospel singer in concert at MCC churches

by Cynthia Laird

One might expect the Reverend Delores Berry to go to church a lot. But mostly, as in her trips through several area Metropolitan Community Churches in coming weeks, it isn't only as to preach. It's also to sing. The openly lesbian gospel singer

will begin her Northern California shows with a free concert at MCC-San Jose this Saturday, March 6, open to all interested people.

Berry, an ordained minister in the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, will also perform in the East Bay and the Sacramento area.

A former Christian Methodist Episcopal minister, Berry began her ministry with UFMCC in 1976 and has done full time evangelism since 1987. Berry visits an average of 55 churches each year and has brought her music and ministry to thousands of people throughout the U.S. and Europe. She has recorded several albums of her unique mix of traditional gospel songs and original arrangements, the sales of which (along with "love offerings") support her ministry.

Berry is currently a member of MCC-Baltimore; she has served in the fellowship as district coordinator of the Mid-Atlantic District, and as pastor of MCC churches in Baltimore; Norfolk, Virginia; and Portland, Oregon. She was a co-founder of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, and assisted in organizing the first People of Color Gay and Lesbian White House Conference. She also helped organize the first gay and lesbian March on Washington.

The San Jose concert takes place at the church, located at 65 South 7th Street, at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (408) 279-2711.

Berry's other performances include:

- Sunday, March 7 at 6 p.m. at New Hope! MCC, located at 855 Seventh Street in Santa Rosa. For information, call (707) 526-HOPE.

- Tuesday, March 9 at 7 p.m. at MCC of the New Vision, located at 1532 Sunnyvale Avenue in Walnut Creek. The concert will be held in the chapel. For more information, call (925) 283-2238.

- Saturday, March 13 at 7 p.m. at River City MCC Cathedral of Promise, 1055 Chaplain Avenue, in the Sacramento area. Berry is also scheduled to perform there Sunday, March 14 at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. For more information, call (916) 454-4325. ▼

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## Shanti, MAX team up for 'Casino Night' fundraiser

by Shan Schwartz

Rincon Centre turns into a tropical paradise this weekend as Men's Associated Exchange (MAX) and Shanti host Casino Night, a fundraiser and volunteer appreciation party.

The party will run from 8 p.m. to midnight this Saturday, March 6, at One Rincon Centre, 101 Spear Street. In keeping with this year's tropical theme, it will feature Polynesian dancers and other entertainment in addition to a full range of casino games with play money.

The event raises money and awareness for Shanti's volunteer services program, which is now in its 25th year. The volunteer program, which started out serving the needs of cancer patients, now provides practical assistance for people with AIDS.

Doren Martin, director of development for Shanti, said the annual event started out three years ago as a party to recognize Shanti's volunteers, but it's turned into a fundraiser as well. Martin said that with the support of MAX, this year's event promises to be bigger and better than ever with hundreds of people expected to attend.

MAX is a gay fraternal organization whose mission is to support positive gay identity through various social, educational, athletic and philanthropic activities. It is perhaps most well-known for its TGIF cocktail parties held on the first and third Fridays of each month at The City Club.

Party-goers will receive "play money" to roam the gaming tables, from black jack to roulette to craps. Music to dance to will be provided by live bands as well as a Brazilian DJ, and Polynesian and Latin American dance groups will perform throughout the evening.

A silent auction and door prize drawings present party-goers with the chance at taking home great prizes or merchandise, including several tickets for free travel donated by American Airlines.

Tickets are available at the door, although advance reservations are appreciated. A \$20 donation includes food, entertainment, a chance at raffle prizes, and 25 units of "play money" to start a trip around the gaming tables.

The dress code is "tropical," which Martin said is wide open for interpretation. ▼

For more information on the event or to make reservations, call Doren Martin at Shanti at (415) 674-4764.



## BAY AREA REPORTER

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LOCAL 583

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## Bush: The White stuff

Last week the New Conservatory Theatre opened the San Francisco premiere of *The Harvey Milk Show: A Passion Play*, a stripped-down (but nevertheless affecting) production of a musical by Dan Pruitt and Patrick Hutchinson.

The show is an entertaining as a reunion with the funniest best friend you've ever had, a refreshing antidote to the dreary opera about Milk's life that played here a few years ago, and terrifically instructive and educational (two words that frequently deter audiences from going, but shouldn't). But this isn't meant to be a review (for that, see Richard Dodd's report on page 31). We mention the show because it contains a chilling moment when one man says to another in the days of Milk's second campaign, "I think that Dan White is cute."

For those who are too young to remember, White was the former police officer and firefighter who was elected supervisor and then shot Milk to death in City Hall. Also for those who don't remember, White was "cute" in a stolid kind of way—the kind who might appeal to men who peruse personal ads for "str8 acting, str8 appearing" guys. During intermission, as a group of longtime residents discussed the show and that disturbing line, one man confirmed a secret shared by a lot of gay San Franciscans of the time: *they voted for Dan White* because they had a vote to spare and, well, he was attractive. Nobody had any idea he was crazy. He couldn't be dangerous. He didn't look it.

This isn't to criticize the men who voted for White—that's water and blood under the bridge—but to caution those who may now be harboring some of those same feelings about George W. Bush.

Bush, the son of Iran-Contra figure George H. Bush (and therefore, not technically George Bush, Jr.), is gradually entering the race for the White House. He has plenty of backing, little political baggage, and a face tailor-made for politics—if Clint Eastwood and Mel Gibson had a son, he might look like George W. Bush. This isn't drooling, this is assessing: he's good-looking. But cobras and lion fish and many other things in the wild are also beautiful but not good for you. And as George Bush's numbers rise we hope people will have the sense to avoid

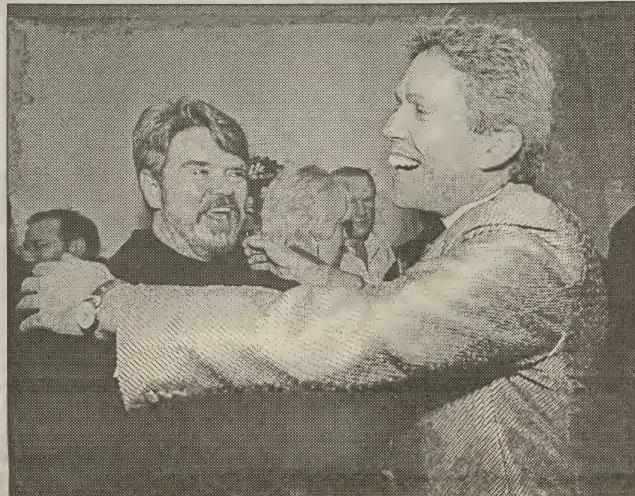
basing any kind of assessment on his face, grace, or photogenic qualities.

The truth is, Bush has done little to involve the gay community in his very uneventful and relatively short political career, but what he has said about our issues has been solidly in line with fundamentalist dogma. He finds it easy for him to treat us as "others," a group who are so different they cannot be equal, as he shows with his disregard of—for one example—gay and lesbian parents. That makes him no worse than any of the other Republican presidential hopefuls who lined up on the far right in Sacramento last week—for details, see Wayne Friday on page 9—but it also makes him no better. Bush looks like a person who could be reasonable, but the

only people he listens to are those who want to stop the gay movement cold.

It's too early to seriously warn people not to vote for him, of course, and it would be silly to suggest that gays are more likely to vote for someone simply because they're attractive. Quite the opposite: almost all Americans are encouraged to judge books by their covers, people by their weight and fashion sense, and candidates by their photo ops. It's endemic, and hard to resist, the urge, but every conscientious voter must resist. Don't give Bush the benefit of any doubt until you are sure you're basing your opinion on what he is, not what he looks like. Know that he does not consider you his equal. And that makes him ugly, no matter how attractive he is. ▼

## Editorial



Rick Gerharter

Quick energizes Milk: George Quick (right), who plays the title role in *The Harvey Milk Show: A Passion Play*, greeted lyricist Dan Pruitt following the musical's San Francisco debut at the New Conservatory Theater on February 26, 1999. For Richard Dodd's review of the production, see p. 31 in the Arts & Entertainment section.

## A uniform policy of inclusion

by Sheriff Michael Hennessey

The San Francisco Sheriff's Department is conducting a recruitment drive for new deputy sheriffs. Perhaps you will read about it in a community newspaper, or you will see flyers in the Castro or on 18th Street. It's possible you will hear about it on a public affairs radio or TV show or receive a brochure at a street fair or festival.

The point is, we are a strong and visible presence in the gay community—as we have been since the early 1980s. The result of our long-term commitment to hiring gay men and women is immediately obvious. The San Francisco Sheriff's Department is proud to have gay deputies in every department unit, as managers, supervisors, and line officers. Many have passed their 10- and 15-year mark of continuous service.

During our 1999 recruitment drive, volunteer deputies will work throughout the gay community to make people aware of this unique job opportunity. Gay deputy sheriffs will work with me and my recruitment staff to make sure every San Franciscan has an equal chance to begin a law enforcement career with us.

But why create a recruitment outreach program to the gay community in San Francisco and the Bay Area?

During the long histories of police and public safety agencies in this country, minorities and women have traditionally been denied equal employment opportunities.

The reasons for this have varied, accord-

ing to the false rationale of each historic era, but its basis was always rooted in cultural ignorance, sexism, or long-standing tradition. And yes, homophobia.

Genuine attempts to break through these practices by law enforcement executives and elected officials were long in coming and are still very sluggish in most areas. The old myths hang on long after they've been disproved by experience and common sense, and, unfortunately, they have been recently reinforced by wrong-headed attempts to derail affirmative action.

Certain groups "just can't do the job," we're told. They're "too weak," it is said; others are "too short" or "too lazy." Yet another group has "poor vision and can't see well enough" to perform the duties required. These and many other likewise specious arguments have been used for decades to bar the hiring of women and minorities for police and fire departments.

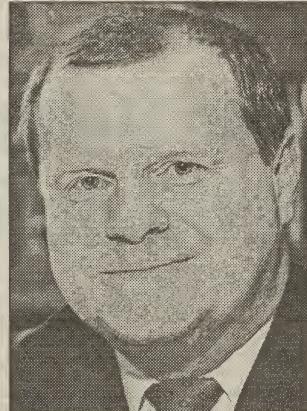
These illogical prejudices were wrong then, and they're even more odious in today's more enlightened and heterogeneous American society.

As we move beyond the traditions of discrimination, past the passage of overdue civil rights statutes, and into an era of what should be de facto employment opportunities for everyone, it becomes clear that the only way we can overcome the mistakes of the past is by implementing proactive policies today.

It is not enough to announce a commitment to equal opportunity. We must reach out and bring those opportunities directly to those who have been traditionally un-



## Guest Opinion



Sheriff Mike Hennessey

derrepresented. We must meet with community leaders and activists, work with minority media in the neighborhoods and turn words into action.

The results are inevitable and satisfying. In our case, we have a department with the highest female and minority representation of any major law enforcement agency in the nation—fully 65 percent of our total sworn team.

We recruit in the gay community because it is right. And we recruit in the gay community because it makes us a better, more effective sheriff's department. And that, after all is said and done, should be the goal of any good organization. ▼

**Housing, boinking, and community**

Re: "Preservationists fight to save the Daphne" by Cynthia Laird, February 18: The Community Center Project Board could easily resolve the conflict that has arisen between Bridge Housing Corp. and neighborhood preservationists who want to save the Daphne from demolition. It has only to: 1) persuade Bridge to exchange the Daphne property at Church and Hermann for the cleared portion of the Center's property at Market and Octavia; 2) instruct its architects to convert the Daphne for community center use; and 3) lease the now landmarked Fallon Building at 1800 Market to a developer for conversion to a Victorian bathhouse such has existed for years in downtown Portland, Oregon.

This arrangement would do a lot toward making everyone happy. Our community would have a better located center with some parking space and room for expansion, and get a bathhouse to replace those lost to the AIDS panic when a court order led to closures during the Feinstein administration. (Besides saving many San Franciscans trips to those baths in Berkeley and San Jose, thereby keeping money in our community, an SF bathhouse would also please out-of-towners who expect one here.) Bridge could build affordable housing – not 93 units certainly, but maybe a respectable 40. The Community Center's architects could continue to design in their preferred modernist idiom. The Community Center board could share in bathhouse profits for reconstruction, new construction, and continuing support of the center by virtue of its ownership of the Fallon Building. But perhaps most important, this arrangement could help dispel the bad karma the center board created when it defied community opinion by voting to demolish the Fallon Building and, following that insult, unapologetically demolished the 1808 Club, a venerable operation that had managed to remain open through the 1980s and into the 1990s by its uncompromising enforcement of safe sex behaviors.

But is anyone Reilly listening, or doesn't anyone Willie care?

Reid Condit  
San Francisco

**Center filling**

Thanks for the great story about the Hormel Center ["SF Main Library seeks volunteers for Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center," February 25]. Good photo!

Already we have had responses from prospective volunteers.

Chuck Forester  
San Francisco

**Rating the ratings**

Re: an HC (Homosexual Content) warning for television programs with gay characters proposed by the Christian Action Network. It's about time. For years now I've proposed similar ratings for other offensive programs. I propose the following ratings for all TV programs in prime time: JC for Jewish Characters; FC for Feminist Characters; BC for Black Characters; AC for Asian Characters; TC for Tobacco Content; AC for Alcohol Content; and the most important, NCN for No Christian Content. Good people are tired of seeing things we don't want to see. I have a daughter who now wants to be a Chinese lesbian tobacco company executive from watching too much of this garbage.

Krandall Kraus  
San Francisco

**No assumptions**

In response to the letter from Edward Gonzales ("Wasted resources," February 25), people are not illegal! Undocumented workers provide a valuable service to our nation. They care for our babies, clean our homes, tend our gardens, pick our cranberry, asparagus, apple, and orange crops. They make our jewelry, jeans, and shoes. They are our Abuelitas, Tios, Hermanos, and Hermanas.

Undocumented people make the long hard journey to America for the same reason all our ancestors did. America represents hope for a better quality of life for them and their families. Unfortunately, borders and the rhetoric of nationalism are used to hug people and separate families.

Mr. Gonzales, where I come from, people of color support and encourage each other. I encourage you to be a part of the solution not the problem. Continue to be an active member in positive organizations such as El Ambiente, Latino Encounters, and Hermanos de Luna y Sol. Get to know your brothers and sisters. You'll find they are just like you. By the way, please refrain from making assumptions about someone's citizenship. It sets a dangerous precedent. Tomorrow, you might be the one asked to show your identification papers!

Alfredro F. Rodriguez  
San Francisco

**Digidesign for living**

I was very disappointed to read an article recently published in the B.A.R., "German bi man's visa revoked after firing" (February 11). I have been an employee of Digidesign for the past five years. While I do know Martin Berneburg, I am not acquainted with the circumstances surrounding his termination. However, I do feel uniquely qualified to comment on the atmosphere at Digidesign due to the fact that I am both gay and a long term employee. My disappointment stems from the fact that my experience at Digidesign has been very positive, and very different than the experience depicted in the article. I am a middle manager. My boss, many co-workers, and at least two members of the executive staff know that I am gay. I have never encountered discrimination here, been the target of homophobic remarks, or been made to feel uncomfortable in any way. My bosses care about my performance, not my sexual orientation. As far as I am concerned, Digidesign has been a very tolerant and accepting company. I wish that the B.A.R. had contacted Digidesign or other members of our community who are employed there. I think that a more balanced article would have been written had these contacts been made.

**Mailstrom**

Vicky Moreno  
Manager, Repair & Rework, Digidesign  
San Francisco

**Blessing or blasphemy?**

I don't believe my ears. Willie Brown's blessing? Willie's eye is not, as *Chronicle* writer, Ed Epstein suggests, on next year's battle over same-sex marriage. His eye is on his own election and the flogging he will get at the polls this November if lesbian and gay people don't vote for him in droves. The idea that this sleazy politician could add one degree of dignity to our enduring personal commitments baffles me. It is the most flagrant and calculated attempt to co-opt an issue that I can remember.

We have qualified lesbian and gay ministers and rabbis who have devoted their lives, working in their own churches to protect us from the ravages of prejudice, advocating for our rights and to qualify marriage and unions within their congregations. We have our own Metropolitan Community Church, a denomination which ministers in some of the most difficult circumstances and inhospitable places in the world. We have lesbian and gay-friendly straight ministers who advocate for us in congregations in spite of the hardships it causes them personally. A blessing from any of these brave souls stands for something and honors our commitments with the example of their own.

A "blessing" from a self-seeking political opportunist can only bring disrepute to our cause. No wonder the right wing welcomes Willie Brown's timely embrace of same-sex marriage.

Doug Comstock  
San Francisco

**With reservations**

I don't know about you but I'm more than a little ticked off at United Airlines. Just who do these homophobes think they are? First they challenge the City's domestic partners ordinance and win, and then they appeal a decision that would grant bereavement leave to domestic partners of employees. Bereavement leave?? Yes. United Airlines has argued that granting bereavement leave to domestic partners would cause a financial hardship to the company.

So when I received an e-mail last week requesting that I make a reservation and then cancel it by stating my opposition to United Airline's position on domestic partner benefits, I was only too glad to do so. However, instead of making one reservation, I made five. What truly amazed me however, were the responses I received when I made my cancellations. They included the following: What are domestic partners? We currently give full benefits to domestic partners; I think unmarried partners of employees shouldn't get benefits; and, this issue has nothing to do with equal rights, it's all about a city telling a company how to run their business.

Well, it became apparent to me that these agents at best missed their diversity orientation training and at worst were purposefully mislead.

And so, I am asking you, the GLBT community, to educate United Airlines. Urge you to call United Airline reservations and enlighten them on domestic partner benefits. Explain to them what their company has not. Tell them how it feels to be treated like a second class citizen. Tell them you have a choice of carriers and United Airlines isn't one of them.

Ronald P. Podoske  
San Francisco

[Editor's note: The B.A.R. discourages using toll-free numbers to harass companies, even those that may appear to need harassment. It could even lead to criminal charges in extreme cases.]

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### Go to HEAL

I recently attended a panel discussion sponsored by HEAL, an organization that promotes a growing movement toward the idea that the "science" surrounding AIDS has been a sham. The panel consisted of prominent scientists, journalists, and activists, including Dr. David Rasnick, a pioneer in the development of protease inhibitors. Dr. Peter Duesberg, the renowned UC Berkeley virologist, was in attendance. A standing room only audience was mesmerized as each speaker presented compelling evidence to question the hypothesis of HIV causing AIDS. Past and current HIV medications were shown to not only be worthless, but harmful as well.

With a reporter from CNN covering this event, it occurred to me that the B.A.R. must end its news blackout of the AIDS dissidents. So very little space is given in your paper to this issue compared to the establishment view that one has to wonder if the large amount of pharmaceutical advertising you accept has affected your editorial judgment.

David Tworkowski  
San Francisco

*[Editor's note: What is clearly a sham is the idea that such a school of thought is a growing movement.] Instead, it is the medical equivalent of people who believe the earth is flat and that moonwalks were secretly staged in Hollywood sound studios. The B.A.R. has covered Duesberg and HEAL's territory in the past, far more than CNN has, which may explain why these reporters came and wasted their time there that night. We say that because we don't recall seeing CNN "covering" any such story, at least in the sense of actually airing anything about it; they probably juked the story after learning how easily those claims about protease inhibitors' worthlessness are debunked.]*

### Grocer indecency

I recently read of a gay man being verbally abused and physically assaulted by a Safeway employee. I was surprised that Safeway apparently tolerates this form of ignorance. The fact that the employee responsible for this atrocious behavior is still employed and working in the predominantly gay area of San Francisco is unbelievable.

My question to Safeway is why are you tolerating this type of conduct by your employees?

Anthony Rhody  
San Francisco

### Arthur, part whatever: lost in the city

Will you people never tire of Arthur Evans's little diatribes? ("Questions to Ponder," *Mailstrom*, February 25.) Sure, he's funny in a whacked-out sort of way, but I'm afraid his relentless obsession with the homeless is wearing a little thin. During my many years of homosexual existence, I've grown increasingly wary of self-proclaimed moral leaders who get really, really obsessed with attacking specific social sub-groups. I don't care to trade in the xenophobic vitriol of Fred Phelps or Jerry Falwell for the homegrown hate-mongering of Mr. Evans, thank you very much.

Like that precious gay couple who've had it up to here with the city's attempts to provide health services to the rabble, Mr. Evans has clearly had his fill. Sure, there are more than enough homes and beds and treatment programs and jobs for everybody, and I too find it curious that so many of today's youngsters opt to sleep on the sidewalks. But I do wonder if the happy-go-lucky life of the gutter might not itself lead to the occasional desire to imbibe?

Certainly, this world would be a good deal better off if we could all live by the wise words of such moral visionaries as Arthur Evans and Nancy Reagan. Perhaps we could post their advice on the streets for everyone to learn by? Of course, the self-appointed Castro poster patrols may get a little worked up over that idea.

Probably best just to curse the vagabonds 'til they retreat back to their loving families. Keep up that harangue, Arthur Evans. You go girl.

Peter Guerin  
San Francisco

P.S. Perhaps we could partially alleviate the daily assault on our senses by allowing police to detain and arrest ugly, old bile-filled coots. Just a thought.

### Hard to fathom

In *Jeff Stryker Does Hard Time*, the "straight" prisoner raped by the star emerges not just bi, but transformed from a nasty punk into a warm loving human being. I was fascinated that Mr. Stryker's fantasy, as revealed in his play, is that his male member is a wand with magical healing powers. Except for that time sitting next to Pamela and Tommy Lee, I don't know when I've been so simultaneously inspired and appalled in a theater.

Strange De Jim  
San Francisco

### Triles and tribulations

It is said that gay people are the only humans who have to find their tribe, rather than being born into it. So many of us have experienced unimaginable difficulties in finding the Rainbow Tribe that such stories constitute a significant portion of our culture's narrative. Many of us have worked to make the neighborhoods, cities, states, and countries where we live safer and more accepting of those who are different. That is why it is so troubling to see such rejection from some Castro area residents who opposed the shelter for gay homeless youth that is so desperately needed in our community.

One of many attempts by a post-Cold War America to create a new enemy with a face, unreconstructed prejudice against homeless individuals by labeling them as bums, drunks, drug users, social vampires, etc., is a tactic that has been used against lesbians and gay men through attempts to depict us as pederasts and sex-fiends, by demonizing a peripheralized minority. Further victimizing gay homeless youth for leaving abusive families and communities serves no purpose except to foster an "us vs. them" mentality, when we actually constitute the same [lavender] family, different and seeking our own kind, our own place in this world. If we turn our backs on those who find themselves rejected by their families and communities of origin because of their psychosexual identity, we are only perpetuating the institutionalized homophobia that we all have experienced and we must not permit this to happen. If the essence of the Castro and San Francisco's identity as a social community is the celebration of diversity, then we must not turn our backs on young gay people who are seeking our help. Either the rainbow flag includes everybody or it is not worth the value of the fabric from which it is made. It matters not how someone is found in need, what matters is that we reach out with helping hands and accepting hearts, not giving the cold shoulder of dismissal.

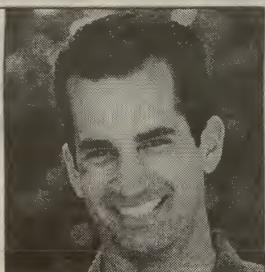
Many of us have arrived in San Francisco as refugees of one sort or another and we have — some with considerable difficulty — found a place where we can belong and be accepted, feel safe, grow, and contribute to society. The present widely hyped economic boom is not shared by all people, despite popular thinking fueled by the media and governmental propaganda, and with 36 million Americans living in federally-defined poverty (United States Department of Commerce, 1998), we inevitably see people lacking housing, food, health care, etc. This reality hits far too close to home for many of us and we see ourselves uncomfortably projected onto the homeless, as more than a few of us are or could be a paycheck or two away from homelessness, joblessness, lacking health care, or struggling with other hardships. Gay homeless youth doubly challenge us by their very presence. It is just too hard to acknowledge that that kid staring me in the face could be (or could have been) me, that the sleeping woman literally has nowhere else safe to go, and that the countless indignities faced by homeless people is not a matter of our inconvenience, but is instead one of basic human rights denied by a society more focused on competition and profit-making than it is on creating, nurturing, learning, and inclusion. The way we treat gay youth is a mirror for how we think and feel about ourselves.

Is it not the responsibility of the parent to make the child's life better than was the mother's or father's? These young men and women are our children and we must take better care of them than how we were treated and how they've been treated. We have worked far too long and far too hard to turn our backs on the very people that we have been trying to liberate. Have we allowed society's homophobic values and intolerance to shape our thinking about and behavior toward lesbogay youth, keeping ourselves distanced from them and their frequently overwhelming needs? Is it just too painful to admit that we have failed so miserably economically that the homeless populating our streets, parks, and sidewalks are indicators that all is truly not right with our world? How many of us have actually taken the time to stop and speak with — not to — a homeless man or woman?

For me, the question is would we rather have gay youth trying to find help in a resourceful community or continue to be brutalized by society's hatred and indifference? If lesbian and gay adults do not care for gay and lesbian youth, who will? We must not perpetuate such abuse in any form, no matter how it is presented and no matter how our intentions are framed. San Francisco has the social, economic, and community resources to provide assistance to gay youth and now is the time for us to embrace our entire family, not just those with jobs, homes, or those who are otherwise privileged. It is our obligation to help homeless gay youth and now is the time for us to do so. Our supervisors are providing true leadership in this matter and San Franciscans can be rightly proud of them.

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# GOPs list to the right in Sacramento

## ... but Pete Wilson stays out of the fray

by Wayne Friday

California's new winner-take-all presidential primary takes place only one year from now, on March 7, 2000. That partially explains why conservative, pro-life, anti-gay presidential hopefuls were so abundant at the state Republican convention over the past weekend in Sacramento. GOP White House wannabes elbowing each other out of the way were Senators John McCain (of Arizona) and Bob Smith (New Hampshire), former Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander, anti-gay religious activist Gary Bauer, *Forbes* magazine publisher Steve Forbes, former veep Dan Quayle, and perennial candidate Alan Keyes. The two leading GOP proxy candidates, Texas Governor George W. Bush and former cabinet officer Elizabeth Dole, were no-shows. (Incidentally, a recent poll nationwide showed that no less than 38 percent of those asked have Texas Governor "Junior" Bush confused with his dad, the former president.)

One GOP candidate who wasn't invited by California Republicans was Representative John Kasich of Ohio, because two years ago Kasich agreed to speak at a fund-raising breakfast for a Democratic friend, California Representative Gary Condit. Although Condit later withdrew the invitation, some Republicans were miffed and aren't about to forgive the Ohio Republican for having a Democrat (albeit a very conservative one) as a friend: "Kasich showed little interest in fence-mending until he decided to run for president," one state GOP official huffed.



Ex-Governor Pete Wilson

Another face not among the White House hopefuls was former Governor Pete Wilson, who announced a couple of weeks ago that he will not seek the Republican presidential nomination next year. While once thought to be a somewhat attractive moderate Republican presidential possibility, Wilson's presidential star appeal faded long ago. While announcing he won't run next year, he insisted that he "has not ruled out a possible future presidential campaign" — but everyone else seems to have done so. Now 65, it is most unlikely that Wilson will ever be president; this guy is definitely no Ronald Reagan.

Some of Wilson's closest advisors were still trying to keep his future political hopes alive by suggesting that he might even seek a return to the U.S. Senate and a rematch with incumbent Dianne Feinstein, whom he defeated in

the governor's race in 1990, or as a potential vice presidential nominee next year. Don't buy it. Most Sacramento (and Washington) political observers feel that his day in national politics clearly passed him by in January when he was "termed-out" as the governor of the nation's largest state — and being replaced by a Democrat did little to help his future.

Those same folks closest to the governor privately admit that Wilson's own mistakes led to his failure to emerge as a candidate in next year's presidential sweepstakes. The worst blunders date back to 1994 when he was running for re-election as governor. Finding himself trailing badly in the polls, Wilson recognized "wedge politics" as the only way to get re-elected, so he latched on to the obviously unconstitutional, however popular, Proposition

187 as his ticket to re-election. He was able to tap into strong anti-immigrant feelings, and won re-election easily over Kathleen Brown, but his reputation as being anti-immigrant immediately hurt his chances to ever again compete on the national stage. The other highly publicized mistake that year was telling California voters he would, under no means, run for president in 1996, allaying fears that he would be an absentee governor while pursuing higher office. Then, only after a few months, but after the governor's re-election was safely in hand, Wilson up and announced he was off and running for the GOP presidential nomination. Shortly thereafter he was forced to undergo surgery on his vocal cords, leaving him speechless for several weeks — a devastating blow to any politician — and the rest of his 1996 presidential campaign was history. (Wilson, of course, blamed his sorry run for the presidency in 1996 on his lost voice, rumors of cancer, and the like, but most still will tell you that Wilson's ill-defined presidency race was the product of his own ego.)

In a statement released to the press during his recent announcement, Wilson insisted that one should "not expect me to go quietly into the night." No, Pete, just go quietly to that popular resting grounds for Republican political has-beens, Stanford University's Hoover Institution.

### Politics and people

So you want to be a judge? Former Los Angeles City Attorney Burt Pines, now Governor Gray Davis's judicial appointments secretary, tells reporters that a new question, asking whether a candidate for judge "has ever belonged to a club that discriminates on the basis of race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or disability" has been added to the questionnaire of judicial hopefuls. There are currently over a dozen judgeships vacant for Davis to fill, but don't look for the first appointment until about June.

San Diego councilwoman Christine Kehoe, the lesbian Democrat who nearly won a House

of Representatives seat in November, has announced that she will run for the 76th District Assembly seat next year — the incumbent, Democrat Susan Davis, will be termed out — and Kehoe immediately becomes the early favorite in that Assembly race.

Bob Dole's TV ad urging men to seek treatment for erectile dysfunction has prompted a protest from conservative anti-gay Traditional Values Coalition head Lou Sheldon, who wants Dole to drop the word "partner" and use "spouses" instead. (Not that I like the commercials, or in fact anything that makes me consider Dole's banana — dysfunctional or erect — but it's clearly time for Sheldon to get a life, even if he has to pop a Viagra or two to do it.)

Will Hillary Rodham Clinton run for the U.S. Senate in 2000 from

New York? No; not a chance (and you can take that one to the bank).

If there is one Republican-held congressional seat that California Democrats want to win next year — badly — it is that of Representative James Rogan in the 27th District (Glendale). Rogan has successfully been able to portray himself as a moderate in the past, but *The National Journal* recently put his voting record to the right of North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms, and with Rogan acting as one of the House managers of the impeachment team (while 55 percent of the voters in the 27th CD opposed impeachment of Clinton) look for the Democratic party to nominate — and very possibly elect — Assemblyman Jack Scott to Rogan's seat in 2000. Interestingly, gay activist Chastity Bono was recently spotted having a private dinner with Rogan. No word on what kind of advice she was offering.

Political writers have been noticing that Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan, an "independent" moderate Republican, seems to have been endorsing a lot of Democratic party members for various state and local office recently (No, I haven't a clue as to what that means).

Here at home, neither Supervisor Mark Leno nor Leslie Katz made any points with Board Prez Tom Ammiano for their recent ATM votes in February.

And, incidentally, Supervisor Barbara Kaufman's recent appearance on Bruce Petit's TV interview show reminded me that she will be termed out next year. (Just thought I'd mention it, folks.)

The "Quote of the Week" comes from J. C. Watts Sr., a 75-year-old joke-telling Baptist preacher from Eufaula, Oklahoma, who happens to be the father of Representative J. C. Watts Jr., the only black Republican member of the House: "A black man voting for the Republicans makes about as much sense as a chicken voting for Colonel Sanders — personally, I couldn't be a Republican because the Republican Party is very much against the poor man." ▶



### Our Man Friday



## Single? Personal Introductions for Lesbians & Gay Men

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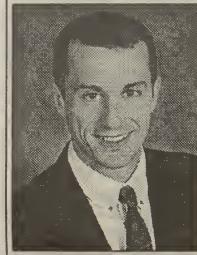
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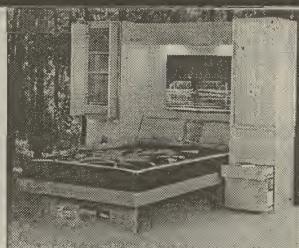
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by Nancy Boutilier

**M**y girlfriend used to be Catholic. Some vestigial guilt must have arrived this month or perhaps it was simply the return of some bird species singing merrily in the spring morning, but she decided to observe that seasonal practice of sacrifice, and gave up, as she put it, "some of my cynicism" for Lent.

Well, scientists tell us that matter is neither created nor destroyed. I imagine it all just gets shuffled around, and I am certain that I have picked up her cast-off cynicism. Quick, someone from the Christian Action Network get a new warning label for me. HC simply isn't enough. How about HCHC, or perhaps HC<sup>2</sup>, as this is now Highly Cynical Homosexual Content.

The Christian Action Network (CAN) recently called upon the federal government to add "Homosexual Content" warnings to television programming, but why stop there? Look what Jerry Fal-



**Dykeotomy**

well did for Tinky Winky sales. Levi's might be able to lay everyone back on with a new line of HC Jeans. Imagine Warning: HC, stitched smartly on the zipper flap.

By the way, my group, Cynics of America Need No Organizations To Spew (or CANNOTS) is calling for IC labels on newsletters and press releases, as well as television programs, that contains Idiotic Content.

The first such rating should be slapped on CAN president Martin Mawyer's released statement that included this gem: "There are parents across the country that are sick and tired of having their living

rooms invaded by homosexual characters and activities on their television."

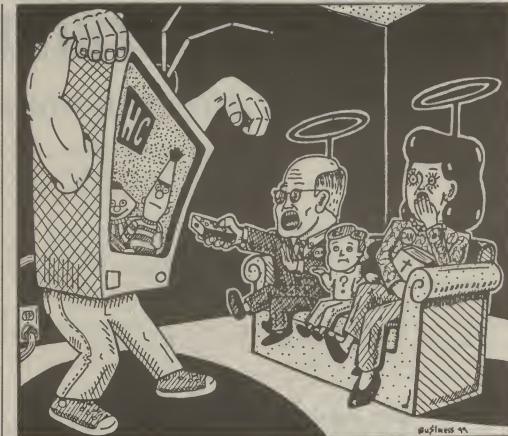
Last I checked, it's still a choice to own, turn on, or tune in to a television, not an invasion. Can we turn off Mawyer yet?

There's even more IC when he writes of "a secret agenda." I'll let you in on The Big Secret, Mr. Mawyer: some people are gay, some are lesbian, some are bisexual, some are transsexual, some are heterosexual. All are human. They show up in life. They show up on television.

Nevertheless, I must confess to my own curiosity about how such a measure would be enforced. Would Mawyer differentiate between a gay-bashing scene and a gay-marriage scene? Would there be an HC warning on an Exodus ad or a Reggie White sermon? Is the very presence of a homo, homo-content? Will they HC (now acting as a verb) C-SPAN's congressional sessions due to the appearance of Representative Barney Frank? Will they HC the men's figure skating championships? Or, when those pioneer football, baseball, and hockey players come out – and we all know it's only a matter of time – will we see an HC warning on the Super Bowl?

And how about those Volkswagens add – Da Da Da.

They should have labeled the recent Amelie Mauresmo-Martina Hingis rematch in Paris. You may recall that Hingis called Mauresmo "half a man" because Mauresmo was open about having her girlfriend with her at the Australian Open. Well, the two played on Mauresmo's home turf last week. The French crowd



hisself every Hingis introduction and booted her every warm-up stroke, showing both clear support for their own new lesbian tennis phenom and disgust for Hingis's homophobic remarks.

Oh, by the way, Mauresmo won the match. Revenge is sweet. HC for women's tennis – Hinghiss Content.

What a wacky world we live in these days when it could be that the homophobes are doing more to make us visible than we are!

Here in California, state Senator Pete Knight (R-Palmale) is the author of the so-called Knight initiative, which reads "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." It will probably be on the Y2K ballot and is sure to raise the level of visibility, discourse, and disgust.

Knight says the bill is not gay-bashing. "I just don't want to change the definition of marriage that has worked for civilization since time immemorial," says Knight. Where is that IC warning when you need it?

Well Senator Knight-in-stupid-armor, which definition since time immemorial is that? The caveman's "club her and drag her" definition? The Englishman's "rule of thumb" which allows a man to beat his wife with a stick that is no thicker around than his thumb? Or just Bill Clinton's All-American "I-didn't-inhale" definition?

And they want to blame us for the decay of marriage when we haven't had the chance to try it out yet.

Mayor Willie Brown, aware of this injustice, has invited gay and lesbian couples to join him on the evening of Friday, March 26, for a

mass blessing of same-sex couples. Don't get me wrong, I'm all for Brown's pro-active opposition to the upcoming Knight initiative. Mayor Brown has been a solid ally in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender fight for civil rights, and he has taken part along with Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) in such group blessings in the past.

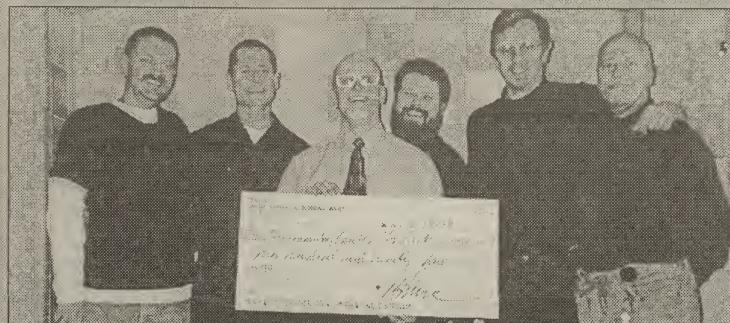
But the idea of a group wedding always gives me a bit of a chill. It seems to grant us a kind of cult status, right up there with the Moonies lining up two-by-two at Madison Square Garden. Thanks, but no thanks, I prefer to take my marriage vows and drink my Kool-aid without the influence of a dynamic leader or a crowd of cohorts.

More importantly, I have another cult activity to attend that very evening, far more important than marriage. While the mayor is blessing couples, I'll be among the dyke throngs in San Jose watching the Chamique Holdsclaw and the Lady Vols go for their fourth consecutive NCAA basketball title.

The mayor must not have consulted the lesbian side of his staff (has he not one GirlJock on board?) in planning the blessing, as it coincides with not one, but two, of the most sacred events of the lunar dykalendar: The women's NCAA Final Four and the Dinah Shore Golf Lesfest in Palm Springs!

When I read that Assemblywoman Migden would not be available to join the mayor in administering this year's blessing, I understood fully that she might have a prior commitment. My only question is this: will we run into her at basketball games or is she more the golfing type? ▼

## Love note from EROS



In a show of civic-mindedness, the management of local gay sex club EROS handed over a check totaling \$794 to Scott Walton (center), manager of the Community Center Project, to support the project's completion. Pictured with Walton, (from left) are EROS managers Rudd Schupp and Glenn Mullin, manager and fundraising coordinator Don George, owner Buzz Bense, and General Manager Baruch Gould.

## MEDIA WATCH

# Felicitous partnerships on the WB network

by Liz Tracey, GLAAD Publications Manager

Immediately after a lead character came out of the closet on the WB network's hit show *Dawson's Creek* in a couple of episodes, another of the network's top-rated shows prominently featured gay themes last week.

The February 23 episode of *Felicity* opened with Javier, boss of the title character, Felicity Porter (Keri Russell), proposing marriage to her. While she had initially been reluctant to marry Javier, since "there's only one real reason to get married ... and that's for love," Felicity changed her mind when she learned that Javier would be deported if he didn't get married, and would be separated from his partner, Samuel.

"If I married Javier," she told her friend Sally in a taped letter, "it would be for love. I mean, it's not often you find your soul mate ... and Javier has found his." Javier's partner demanded (and was granted) a transfer when he found out that Javier planned to marry Felicity, and the wedding was canceled.

Felicity's love interest, Noel Crane (Scott Foley) dealt with his own struggles in the episode. Noel's brother Ryan came down to visit, saying he had some big news for Noel — who assumed that his brother had proposed to his longtime girlfriend. Instead, Ryan took Noel to a bar, where he told him he broke up with his girlfriend, and that it "turns out I'm gay." Noel told Ryan "I'm not upset," saying "Okay, if that's the way it is, then okay." But he added that "I guess I don't know you as well as I thought I did."

Noel later told Felicity, "You didn't know Ryan in high school; I mean, he was the king of the studs. ... Girls loved Ryan! ... This isn't same. It's got to be a phase; people don't change that much overnight." Ryan soon told Noel that in addition to being gay, he has a boyfriend, whom he invited to a dinner that Noel and Ryan had planned with Felicity. There Ryan announced plans to have a commitment ceremony

with his boyfriend, overwhelming Noel. Noel lashes out — "What do you think mom and dad are going to say when you bring this up?" — and Ryan responded, "You know what's nuts? I was going to ask for your support when I told them."

Ryan walked out, and it wasn't until Noel bumped into Javier that he had a change of heart. Referring to the fact that Felicity had offered to marry him, Javier said, "I can't tell you how much it means to me that she realized how difficult it is — our situation, Samuel and me. You know, you'll be surprised — a lot of people disapprove, but Felicity, no. She believes in love."

In the end, Noel and Ryan made amends. The show closed with Sally's response to Felicity: "As crazy as it is, I would have offered to marry Javier, too. ... When you see someone in love, you want to do whatever you can for them, because the truth is, you want to be with them."

The show dealt both with Ryan's coming out and with Javier's predicament in a compelling manner, using very current issues (such as the struggle for equal marriage rights and immigrations problems) to illustrate the issues that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people face. It also broke stereotypes by discussing Ryan's past, illustrating the old proverb which says you can't judge a book by its cover.

Please thank the producers of *Felicity* and the WB Network for this educational and supportive look at the lives of two gay men and those around them.

Contact J.J. Abrams and Matt Reeves, Executive Producers, *Felicity*, c/o Touchstone Television, 500 South Buena Vista, Burbank, CA 91521; and Jamie Kellner, President, WB Television Network, 4000 Warner Blvd., #34-R, Burbank, CA, 91522.

## ABCNEWS.com: Setting a standard

In its February 19 piece about an attack on 17-year-old Adam Colton of Marin County, ABCNEWS.com provided extensive information that contributed to

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Dr. Kelly is the former manager of the HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center at University of California, San Diego.



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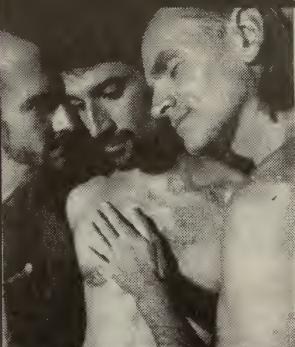
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# Sex and violence in the Detour bathroom

by Mark Norby  
 and Ron McGlashan

**S**unday, February 27, 11 p.m., 2348 Market Street: The San Francisco Patrol Special Police reported that a robbery and sexual assault occurred at the Detour bar. The victim told authorities that he was inside a toilet stall in the bar when another man forced the door open, pinned him against the wall, and began to grope him in a sexual manner. As the suspect palpated the victim he pulled a \$20 bill from a pocket of the victim's trousers and then fled the bar.

The suspect was described as a white male in his 40s, 6 feet tall, weighing around 200 pounds. He was wearing black army pants, army boots, and a purple bandanna tied around his ankle.

#### Maced after raising cane

**S**

As the officers admitted the suspect to Mission Police Station, he bit the hand of the booking officer. He was then identified as 40-year-old Mike Jones, and was booked on several charges.

#### Cliff's clerks catch crook

**S**aturday, February 27, 5 p.m., 479 Castro: Cliff's Variety reports that a suspect entered the store and attempted to steal several items. The owner and several clerks chased the man as he ran out of the store and up Castro Street, caught him, and effected a citizen's arrest. Officers who searched the suspect found he



### Crime & Punishment

also had several items from Cloba, located at 587 Castro, and from RPM, located at 535 Castro.

The suspect, identified as 43-year-old Rodney Westerfield, was booked for burglary.

#### Castro armed robber gets cash, gives beating

**T**hursday, February 16, 10:30 p.m., Douglas Street: A man returning home from a local bar passed a parked late model Taurus and heard a man yell. At that time a male with a gun approached him and demanded his wallet.

The victim gave the suspect the wallet and money, and was struck across the head. Paramedics evaluated the victim and police took a report.

#### Larkin robber gets cash, gives beating

**F**riday 19, 10:30 p.m., Eddy and Larkin Street: A man under the influence of alcohol was attacked by a lone suspect who said nothing but struck the victim and attempted to find his wallet. The suspect found the wallet and ran from the area with the victim in pursuit. The suspect then beat the victim a second time, this time causing the victim to have a seizure. Police arrived, and paramedics treated and transported the victim.

#### Scam I am

A male identifying himself as "Jim" has approached a number of merchants in the Castro and 24th Street area, saying he is in the business of installing security systems. Unfortunately, he seems to be none too interested in anybody's security. He hot prowled the residence of an elderly woman in the area when she refused his services, and was seen entering her home through an open window. He is described as a Hispanic male, 25-35 years of age, 5 foot 8 inches in height, and is still at large. If he comes to your home or business, call the police.

#### Robber sought

Police are seeking a suspect wanted in connection with a string of recent robberies



Have you seen this man?  
 See below and call the cops.

throughout San Francisco, including one on February 16 in the Castro. The suspect is described as a "Black Male Adult," around 25-30 years old, about 6' tall and 165 lbs., with a slim to medium build. All the robber's targets have been small retail shops, with the exception of one small Savings and Loan. Anyone with information regarding the suspect is asked to call Inspectors Krings or Spencer of the SFPD's Robbery Detail at (415) 553-1201.

#### Twin Peaks vandalized

**W**ednesday, February 24, 10 a.m., Castro and Market: A bartender who works at the Twin Peaks bar reported to the patrol that he discovered the front window broken, and a brick lying on the floor, when he arrived to open the bar. There is no evidence that the vandalism was a hate crime, but the patrol urges anyone who discovers a similar incident - either at a business or residence - to call the police immediately, in case a pattern begins to form in the neighborhood. ▼

This column is brought to you as a public service of the SFPD Office of Public Affairs and the men and women of the SFPD who protect and serve you. For information or suggestions call the office at (415) 553-1651; call Ron at (415) 776-9399; or page him at (415) 201-6004.

# 'Jenny Jones' killer of gay man to remain behind bars

#### United Press International

**A** suburban Detroit judge denied bond for 28-year-old Jonathan Schmitz, a man facing a new trial in the 1995 death of a gay admirer who revealed his secret crush on TV's *Jenny Jones Show*.

Oakland County Circuit Judge Wendy Potts denied the request for freedom Tuesday, March 2, and ordered him to remain in the county jail pending a second trial in the shotgun slaying of Scott Amedure. The trial is expected to

begin in July or early August; a pretrial hearing is set for April 6.

Last month the Michigan Supreme Court ordered a retrial after finding fault with the jury selection process in the first trial, in which Schmitz was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 25 to 50 years in prison.

Schmitz's attorney Jerome Sabbota argued his client should be granted bond because he's not a public threat.

Sabbota partly blames Amedure and the talk show host Jenny Jones for the slaying, because Schmitz was deeply embarrassed

by Amedure's surprise revelation and description of a whipped-cream fantasy.

Amedure and Schmitz sat together on the talk show stage in Chicago for the program on "secret crushes." Before Amedure spoke, Schmitz thought his secret admirer was a woman.

Three days later Schmitz drove three miles to Amedure's home and gunned him down in his doorway.

Separately, Amedure's family has filed a \$50 million wrongful death lawsuit against Warner Brothers, which owns the show, and others. ▼

# March PolitiCalendar

## A B.A.R. clip 'n' save feature

**M**eetings of interest to the community throughout March, listed in order of each group's first event this month:

**Board of Supervisors**  
March 8, 15, 22, 29; 2 p.m.  
City Hall, 2nd Floor  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
(Meets every Monday)  
For committee meetings  
call (415) 554-5184

**Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club**  
March 8; 7-9 p.m.  
MCC-San Francisco  
150 Eureka Street  
(Meets 2nd Monday)  
Info: (415) 522-3809

**ACT UP/Golden Gate**  
March 9, 16, 23, 30; 7:30 p.m.  
592 Castro Street  
(Meets every Tuesday)  
Info: (415) 252-9200

**Oakland HIV Health Services Planning Council**  
(Alameda, Contra Costa counties)  
March 10; 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
(Meets 2nd Wednesday)  
Council's PWA Committee  
March 12; 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Location/info: (510) 763-9711

**HIV Prevention Planning Council**  
March 11; 3-6 p.m.

**Unitarian Church**,  
1187 Franklin at Geary  
(Meets 2nd and 4th Thursday)  
For committee meetings,  
call (415) 554-9000

**Queer Latino Political Action Committee (QL PAC)**  
March 11; 6:30 p.m.  
Women's Building  
3543 18th Street  
(Meets 2nd Thursday)  
Info: (415) 648-3702

**Ambiente Latino Democratic Club**  
March 13; 4 p.m.  
(Meets 2nd Saturday)  
Location/info: (415) 239-2221

**SF Health Commission**  
March 16; 3 p.m.  
San Francisco Department of Public Health  
101 Grove Street, Room 300  
(Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday)  
Info: (415) 554-2666

**LGBT Advisory Committee**  
**SF Human Rights Commission**  
March 16; 5:30 p.m.  
25 Van Ness Avenue  
(Meets 3rd Tuesday)  
Info: (415) 252-2500

**LGBT Community Center Project Board**  
March 17; 7 p.m.  
1748 Market Street  
(Meets 3rd Wednesday)  
Info: (415) 437-2257

**Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action (LGADDA)**  
March 18; 7 p.m.  
507-B Divisadero  
(Meets 3rd Thursday)  
Info: (415) 749-1202

**HIV Health Services Planning Council**  
March 22; 4:30 p.m.  
New location: City Hall, Room 201  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
Committee meetings/Info: (415) 554-9136

**Call for information about these March meetings:**

**SF Youth Commission**  
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call (415) 554-6446

**Harvey Milk Democratic Club**  
Info: (415) 751-5364

**LGBT Pride Celebration Committee**

Info: (415) 864-3733

**Cabin Republican Club**  
Info: (415) 522-2944

**Out on the Island**  
City of Alameda's gay community action group  
Location/info: (510) 337-1300

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**SUSTIVA™ is the first HIV drug approved to be taken once-a-day as part of your combination therapy.** Just take three 200 mg capsules together once daily, with or without food; high fat meals should be avoided. Your doctor may suggest taking SUSTIVA at bedtime to reduce any side effects you may experience.

**SUSTIVA, an NNRTI\*, must be used in combination with other HIV drugs.**

**SUSTIVA is tough on HIV.** It reduces the amount of virus in your blood and increases the number of CD4 cells.

SUSTIVA can even be used in young children, 3 years of age or older. This is based on results from controlled clinical trials at 24 weeks. Presently, there are no results from controlled clinical trials showing the long-term effects of SUSTIVA.

#### **SUSTIVA has manageable side effects.**

**Most side effects are mild to moderate and can be managed.** The most significant side effects associated with SUSTIVA therapy have been nervous system symptoms (dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating and/or abnormal dreams) and rash. These usually subside within the first two to four weeks of treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may help make nervous system symptoms less noticeable.

\*NNRTI - non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor.

For more information on SUSTIVA, call 1-800-4PHARMA or visit our website at <http://www.sustiva.com>. For more information on the updated DHHS Guidelines, a PDF file of the guidelines is available at <http://www.hivatis.org>.

## Once Daily **SUSTIVA™** efavirenz

Pregnancy should be avoided in women receiving SUSTIVA because birth defects have been seen in primates dosed with SUSTIVA. Barrier contraception should always be used in combination with other methods of contraception.

**Talk to your doctor when you start taking SUSTIVA.** SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Always tell your doctor if you are taking, starting or changing any prescription or non-prescription medicine when taking SUSTIVA. Your doctor may change your medicines or change their dose. You should discuss your prior medical conditions (such as mental illness, substance abuse, hepatitis, etc.) with your doctor before taking SUSTIVA.

We know that coping with HIV is difficult enough. Your treatment doesn't have to be. Ask your doctor about SUSTIVA. For more important information see the next page for Patient Information about SUSTIVA.

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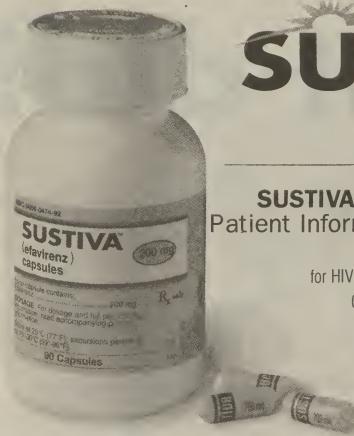
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1. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV infection, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), December 1998.

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# Once Daily **SUSTIVA** efavirenz

## **SUSTIVA™ (efavirenz) capsules** Patient Information about SUSTIVA\* (sus-TEE-vah)

for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection  
Generic name: efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehnz)

Please read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. Don't treat this leaflet as your only source of information about SUSTIVA. Always discuss SUSTIVA with your doctor when you start taking your medicine and at every visit. You should remain under a doctor's care when using SUSTIVA. You should not change or stop treatment without first talking to your doctor.

### What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used to help treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

### How does SUSTIVA work?

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (called "viral load"). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells (a type of immune cell in blood). SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

### Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?

SUSTIVA is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important that you remain under the care of your doctor.

### Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

### How should I take SUSTIVA?

- The dose of SUSTIVA for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).
- Take SUSTIVA at the same time each day. You should take SUSTIVA at bedtime during the first few weeks or if you have side effects, such as dizziness or trouble concentrating (see **What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**).
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water, juice, milk or soda. You may take SUSTIVA with or without meals; however, SUSTIVA should not be taken with a high fat meal.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away. If you do miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

### Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

### Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

### What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

- Talk to your doctor right away if you:
  - Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
  - Are breast-feeding
  - Have problems with your liver, or have had hepatitis
  - Start or change any medicine
  - Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz)
  - Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

### What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to go away after you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. Rarely, patients have more serious side effects that may affect mood or ability to think clearly. These side effects occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness or substance abuse. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

### What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?

Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby.

### Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:
 

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA.\*\*

- Hisminal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA.\*\*

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

### How should I keep SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°-86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

### How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com>.

**This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.**

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## Migden folds on cannabis issue



Medical marijuana advocate Dennis Peron and fellow supporters of patients' right to use cannabis to alleviate ailments showed up in Assemblywoman Carole Migden's office on February 25 to lobby for a bill legalizing the controlled substance's sale to patients. They expressed their disappointment that Migden declined to support such a law.

## Gay vets get new organization president

by Bob Roehr

Edward Clayton's life has enough melodrama for a soap opera. The 39-year-old is riding high now as the newly elected president of the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Veterans of America (GLBVA). But the road has been as rocky as a Betty Davis flick.

Being a Marine was in Clayton's blood, a nine-generation family tradition cultivated in his Alabama home. Edward took it to like a duck to water. By 1987 the enlisted man was Marine of the Year for the First Marine Aircraft Wing in Japan.

But soon an anti-gay witch-hunt led to a Kafkaesque fall. He was raped while in "protective custody" in the brig in Camp Pendleton, California; he was then thrown out the back gate, his eyes blackened, nose broken, three ribs cracked, HIV newly multiplying in his body.

Dazed and broke, he wandered the streets of Los Angeles for four days before finding help from GLBVA. The organization arranged medical care and a ticket home.

Clayton publicly raged against the Marines for kicking him out and trying to recoup bonus money they had paid him. The military claimed he had re-enlisted "under false pretenses."

Birmingham didn't exactly embrace their native son. There were threatening phone calls, "FAG" spray painted on his apartment door, even physical assaults. But at 5 feet 6 1/2 inches and 150 pounds, the feisty Clayton more than held his own, using his Marine training to send several people to the hospital.

His body healed quickly enough but his spirit was another matter. "To me the epitome of honor, and goodness, and patriotism was the United States Marine Corps," Clayton said.

"Since I was eight years old, that's all I wanted to do."

Being kicked out "simply because I was homosexual made me think that I wasn't worth anything simply because they told me I wasn't."

Clayton began volunteering



Gay veteran Edward Clayton

with the 1993 March on Washington for gay and lesbian civil rights, and ended up a member of the national steering committee. The day following the march there was a smaller gathering across the Potomac in front of the Pentagon. "All of the brass were lining up around the top of the building, even the generals on their balconies," he recalled. "All of a sudden the crowd of several thousand just turned and shook their fingers, shouting 'Shame, shame, shame!'"

"I felt closure at that moment," said Clayton. "I came away from the Pentagon with such a peace with myself that now I work, not out of hatred but out of desire to affect change. And hopefully, to prevent someone from going through what I went through, or even worse, what happened to Allan Schindler," who was beaten to death.

Clayton kept his HIV status secret at first, because in Alabama, "if you had AIDS they'd just as soon shoot you. That's one less person that can spread it or that the government has to pay for." But he said that attitude has changed over the last five years to one of "indifference."

He treated his HIV with exercise, nutrition, homeopathic medicines, "and the grace of God" for a decade, before starting combination therapy about a year ago. It seems to be doing its job. Clayton marvels at his own survival and said, "The people in the movement that I work with, they inspire me."

### The GLBVA agenda

Clayton was elected national president of GLBVA by acclamation at the group's biannual convention in February, in Palm Springs. He has an ambitious agenda to build the organization and better serve its members.

"The biggest thing we need to do is educate," he said. "Not just our elected officials but the general public as well. As I told the convention, give up the fight, accept 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell?' Not on my watch. Absolutely not."

Another goal is to "heal the rift" from 1993 when "we lost most of our chapters east of the Mississippi" due to what Clayton believes was essentially personality conflicts. He hopes to bring those chapters "back into the fold."

Clayton announced a Veteran's Video History Project at the convention. He sees it as a record of the positive and negative experiences of gays and lesbians serving in the military. It would be a tremendous resource for both the media and for historians.

There are also nitty-gritty things, like working with the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network "to get the descriptive removed from the DD-214 [discharge form]. Right now, any employer who wants to check me out can get a copy of that and at the bottom, next to my discharge code, it says, 'discharged due to discovered involvement in homosexual activity.'"

Clayton understands why a lot of veterans want to remain in the closet, at least when applying for a job. Many vets got their advanced education while on active duty and the only way an employer can verify that is to go through the military.

### More than gay issues

"We're going to be responding to a lot more than just gay issues," said Clayton. "There are issues out there that don't deal specifically with gay veterans, but they have an effect on gay veterans. Like this new registration for VA benefits."

"As of last month, if you want to receive VA care at any point in your life, you have to go through a formal registration process now, you can't just walk in and say

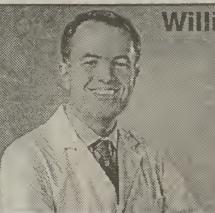
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- Week-day senior activities: 1874 Market Street
- Support groups (gender specific), writing groups
- Recreational events/holidays/gay pride
- Support services — care assessments by social worker; linkage to services, in-home support
- Lunch Bunch — support group for homebound
- Volunteerism — trained volunteers do home visits, coordinate activities & programs for seniors
- Wheelchair accessible
- For information call 415.255.2937

New Leaf is funded through the San Francisco Dept. of Public Health: Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, AIDS Office, Commission on Aging, Mayor's Office of Community Development; MSC: State of CA grants including Academy of Friends, Horizons, Macy's, and Richmond/Ernest Foundation.

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\*Not all dental services are covered. Details of program available from office staff during the times listed above. Information not available on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday.

## Turner around and Tucker up



addy's owner Phillip Turner, left, and former International Mr. Leather Jeff Tucker looked fabulous at the "Beauty's Revenge" benefit last Sunday night, February 28, at the Driftwood Lounge in Hayward. Almost \$2,000 was raised at the annual drag-a-thon for the AIDS Emergency Fund.

## AFP to honor educators

by Shan Schwartz

**F**our pioneering Bay Area educators who have helped make schools more gay-friendly will be honored by the Alternative Family Project (AFP) at an award ceremony and fundraiser in the Castro District this Monday, March 8.

AFP will hold the event at Nirvana Restaurant, located at 544 Castro Street between 18th and 19th streets, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Advance tickets are required.

AFP Director Marcia Perlstein said honorees Kevin Gogin, Crystal Jang, Bob Latham, and Dr. Juanita Owens deserve special recognition for their courageous and creative work in their schools and school districts, as they navigated the "circuitous passages of school bureaucracies."

Owens, who dropped out of high school due to anti-gay harassment, is now president of the San Francisco School Board. She has worked for years on the school board to nurture a culturally sensitive curriculum, including appropriate identification of gay and lesbian authors or historical figures, and to develop accepting environments for all students.

Gogin and Jang lead San Francisco Unified School District's Support Services for Gay and Lesbian Youth. They work to create a variety of services for queer or questioning youth and their families, including education and counseling services. Perlstein said the duo had recently trained every middle school and elementary school teacher in the district on gay and lesbian issues and how to

deal with them in the classroom.

Latham is the executive director of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Educators Network (GLSEN) chapter that includes San Francisco and the East Bay. Now a retired teacher, he was one of the original members of BANGLE, the Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators. Perlstein said these organizations, now merged, started with just a half dozen teachers meeting in a classroom and now have thousands of teachers in the Bay Area and award scholarships to graduating students going on to college.

### The most pain

Despite good work that has been done in many area schools, Perlstein said the schools remain a critical – and often damaging – environment for kids from non-traditional families or for kids who are queer or questioning.

"In all of our work with families who do have children, our schools are the places that they have the most pain, even in this part of the world," Perlstein said. "Unfortunately, over and over we discover that schools are often unsafe places for young people to think about or ask questions about lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) issues. Teachers are often afraid or uneducated to respond to incidents or initiate discussions."

"We see it as really crucial, and something to recognize, to have some people breaking in to our most conservative institutions that affect all of our families most deeply," she said. The topic is especially timely now, as the recent gay-bashing of a San Marin High

School student in Novato illustrates. [See "Novato gay teen hospitalized after second assault," February 18].

Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Mark Leno will present the awards. Guests to the reception and ceremony will have a chance to meet and mingle with the award recipients, plus other local dignitaries. Funds raised at the event will help AFP maintain its array of programs and ensure that AFP can keep its community room open. The current lease for the community site, located with AFP's offices at 425 Divisadero Street, runs out in May.

AFP provides counseling, educational and informational programs and services for LGBT people and their families, whatever the definition of "family" may be. In the last year, AFP has built a new program for couples and other types of families that may not consist of two partners with children.

"With the 'gayby' boom, there's been some backlash, like if you don't have children you're not considered a family," Perlstein said. "So we've been trying to recognize couples and households as families, too, acknowledging that your emotional intimacy with people and the people you support in life can also be your own type of family." ▼

For tickets or more information about AFP's award ceremony fundraiser, call APT Events at (415) 550-8587. For general information about AFP, call the AFP office at (415) 436-9000 or visit the organization's website at [www.queer.org/afp](http://www.queer.org/afp).

## PFLAG needs help educating the educators

by Mark Norby

**P**arents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) of San Francisco has an offer for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community to communicate directly with education leaders from across the country. PFLAG hopes to rent information booths at three education conferences in coming weeks, and provide educators with information about the issues faced by LGBT students and their parents, but desperately need financial donations to make it happen.

"One of our most urgent priorities is making sure our schools provide safe and supportive learning environments for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth," PFLAG Chairperson Julia Thoron

told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "The harassment meted out not just by fellow students, but too often by teachers and administrators, must stop. The best way to stop it is to provide accurate information and change the attitudes of the people who run our schools."

Thoron, a straight parent whose adult daughter came out to her in January 1990, believes the fight to end harassment and discrimination in schools is far from over. "The pejorative words used against gay kids – faggot, dyke, lezzie, the list goes on – are really harmful to kids and cause all sorts of tensions in the lives of today's youth. We not only want to end such base use of language, but to make schools a safe place where diversity is respected, not inhibited."

The three conferences include the Association for Supervision

and Curriculum Development, to be held March 6-8 and with an anticipated attendance of over 12,000 educators; the National Association of Elementary School Principals, March 20-23 with an anticipated attendance of 5,500; and the National School Boards Association, April 10-13 with an anticipated attendance of 15,000.

"PFLAG needs a booth at each one of these vital conferences," continues Thoron, "and time is of the essence. This is a grassroots fundraising appeal and all tax-deductible donations will be put to important, effective use." ▼

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Equality

◀ page 1

leverage more influence with state lawmakers and that participants will build on the momentum generated by the week of activities long after Equality Begins at Home is over. Her comments were echoed by Kerry Lobel, NGLTF's executive director.

"Equality Begins at Home is not an end point, but a beginning point. We are going to make our statewide organizations stronger, mobilize more people, register more voters, and demand greater accountability from our state legislators and policy makers," Lobel said. "It is this organizing at the state level that will ultimately counter the hostility and gridlock we have come to know from our nation's capital."

Equality Begins at Home is part of a campaign to counter the growing muscle of the right wing and its anti-gay attacks. In the last few years, the right has passed dozens of anti-gay laws in dozens of states. Additionally, 1998 was one of the most vicious years in recent history. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott likened homosexuality to kleptomania and sex addiction; Congress introduced a number of mean-spirited anti-gay measures; right wing groups launched their infamous advertising campaign attacking LGBT people; and voters approved anti-gay ballot measures in several cities and states, including Alaska and Hawaii.

## A unique opportunity

In California, much of the planning has been done by the new queer lobby group, California Alliance for Pride and Equality (CAPE), which received \$5,000 from NGLTF to help with organizing

costs. Randy Allgaier, CAPE's interim coordinator, said a big turnout in Sacramento is important. There are many events planned, he said. Additionally, the annual Queer Youth Lobby Day takes place Monday, March 22. In addition to CAPE, All Our Families Coalition is helping organize a number of events during what's being billed as "Family Awareness Week."

Allgaier said there are two major reasons why LGBT people should come to Sacramento that weekend. "I think it's critical to show the diversity and strength of our community," Allgaier told the B.A.R. on Monday, March 1. "We

ground level," Garrett told the B.A.R. "CAPE is determined to be a grassroots effort. It is time for us to tap the infinite talent that exists in the East Bay region as the organization moves ahead."

Garrett said Equality Begins at Home provides a chance for people from the East Bay to connect not only with other allies in the Bay Area, but from across the state as well. "We all need an occasional morale boost as we do the very important work of making this a better world. As we come together in Sacramento we will not only have the opportunity to educate ourselves about the work that lies

movement has there been a coordinated political campaign of actions in all 50 states, Washington D.C., and Puerto Rico. Equality Begins at Home represents a new phase of the movement — a focus on state organizing and legislatures. The vast majority of debates and decisions about LGBT equality occur in state legislatures, she added. Organizers believe Equality Begins at Home will bolster the infrastructure of the LGBT movement within the states, and lead to greater success on the overall struggle for equality.

The Equality Begins at Home activities in Sacramento March 20-22 include:

• An open CAPE board meeting Saturday at 10 a.m. at the state capitol.

• A statewide CAPE community meeting Saturday at 2 p.m. at the capitol.

• The inaugural meeting of CAPE's community advisory board Saturday at 4 p.m. at the capitol.

• A fundraising benefit for CAPE and NGLTF Saturday from 7 to 10 p.m. at The Garage, 1831 S Street in Sacramento. Tickets are \$20 each.

• An interfaith service Sunday at 10 a.m. on the west steps of the capitol.

• A memorial for gay veterans from 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. Sunday at the Veterans Memorial on the capitol grounds.

• A rally on Sunday from noon to 2:30 p.m. on the west steps of the capitol. Master of ceremonies will be San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano. Other speakers will include Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa (D-Los Angeles); NGLTF's Lobel; the Reverend

Don Fado, the Methodist minister who performed the same-sex ceremony for two lesbians in January; and Jenny Pizer of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. Other events during the rally include performances by the Fresno Rainbow Singers, the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus, and the choirs of Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco and River City MCC Cathedral of Promise in Sacramento.

• A fundraiser for CAPE and the Sacramento Lambda Center Sunday from 3 to 6 p.m. at Faces, 2000 K Street. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$7 for youth, who will be provided with a tent that's alcohol-free.

• Queer Youth Lobby Day on Monday, March 22 at the capitol.

• Family events throughout the week in Sacramento and the Bay Area being organized by All Our Families Coalition, the Alternative Family Project, Our Family, and other groups.

Allgaier said the event, expected to draw thousands to Sacramento, has been organized with the \$5,000 provided by NGLTF. Much of that money went to advertising, a mailer, stage and sound equipment, and other costs associated with logistics and transportation. ▼

## Equality Begins at Home is part of a campaign to counter the growing muscle of the right wing and its anti-gay attacks.

have a unique opportunity; we have a governor who's supportive of our issues for the first time in a generation, and a Legislature that's supportive. We need to let them know they need to keep supporting the LGBT community.

"Secondly, a year from now, the Knight initiative is on the ballot," Allgaier added, referring to a ballot measure authored by Republican state Senator Pete Knight of Palmdale. That ballot measure would mandate that any marriage in the state must be between a man and a woman.

Justin Garrett, with CAPE East Bay, also stressed the importance of a strong presence in Sacramento. "CAPE is a new organization and this is an excellent opportunity for queer members of the East Bay to get involved on the

before us, but also to celebrate the accomplishments we have achieved," Garrett added.

Along with NGLTF, the Federation of LGBT Statewide Political Organizations is helping coordinate Equality Begins at Home. "Our demands are simple and in line with basic American values: the right to be safe, to have a family, to hold a job, and to participate fully as citizens. It's exactly what every American wants and deserves," said Gina Reiss, federation co-chair and executive director of the New Jersey Lesbian and Gay Coalition.

## A new phase

Conaty said that never before in the history of the gay rights

Information about Equality Begins at Home in California is available on the Internet at [www.calape.org](http://www.calape.org). People can also check out <http://www.equalitybeginsathome.org> to get more information. Chartered buses will be available for those in San Francisco who can't drive up to Sacramento; the cost is \$15 for

## Events abound for 'Family Awareness Week'

by Cynthia Laird

A variety of local lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) groups have developed several events in the Bay Area taking place during Equality Begins at Home, which takes place the week of March 21-27. Led by All Our Families Coalition (AOFC), other participating organizations include the Alternative Family Project (APP), Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF), Children Of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE), Our Families, and the Pacific Center for Human Growth.

Most of the organizations, if not all, will have representatives in Sacramento March 20 and 21 for the big Equality Begins at Home rally; the local events are designed as a follow-up to that event and include:

• Monday, March 22, San Francisco: APP's workshop on considering parenthood, avenues and options, with information on known and unknown donor insemination, adoption, foster parenting and co-parenting. For location and time, call (415) 436-9000.

• Tuesday, March 23, San Francisco: A workshop on legalizing lesbian and gay families co-sponsored by BALIF. Attorneys will provide information about second-parent adoption. There will also be a report about the fight to legalize domestic partnership and same-sex marriage. For location and time, call (415) 821-7787.

• Wednesday, March 24, San Francisco: COLAGE's family skate night at the new-Yerba Buena Ice Skating Center, 750 Folsom Street, from 7 to 9 p.m. There's a \$6 entrance fee and snacks will be provided. It's described as a fun evening for kids to ice skate, have fun, and get to know each other. Parents are also welcome. For information, call (415) 861-KIDS.

• Thursday, March 25, San Francisco: Join AOFC at a press conference and reception featuring state leaders who'll be speaking about the struggle against the Knight initiative. For location and time, call (415) 681-1960.

• Saturday, March 27, Berkeley: Our Family, the gay and lesbian family group, hosts family night at the downtown Berkeley YMCA. People are invited to fill the YMCA for a pizza party from 6 to 7 p.m., and crafts, swimming, kindergym, floor hockey, and basketball from 7 to 9 p.m. To RSVP, call (510) 526-7899.

• Sunday, March 28, Berkeley: The Pacific Center hosts a potluck lunch and featured films about LGBT family life. Movies include *Bath My Morn's Name is Judy*, *All God's Children*, and *Making Babies*. For information or to RSVP, call Anna at (415) 879-8560. The Pacific Center is located at 2712 Telegraph Avenue. ▼

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## Librarian

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headed by then-acting City Librarian David Price – more library staff came forward and expressed concern over the plans for the construction of the new building. Philbrook refused to blunt his criticism of the new building, which many librarians believed led management to refuse to support him against the molestation charges.

"About one month before Jesse's accusations surfaced," Philbrook told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "Cathy Page [then chief of the Main Library] approached me and told me that several female librarians had complained about sexual advances that I supposedly made toward them. I told her 'you know I'm gay, don't you?' She didn't respond, but simply walked away. The following month Jesse apparently came forward with the molestation charges."

"He allegedly told David Price and other librarians that he spent the night at my house, which is completely untrue. I was a tutor to Jesse and was there to mentor

him, but had absolutely no sexual contact with him nor did I make any improper advances on him."

### Suspicion and innuendo

According to Philbrook's attorney Gary Hall and several library employees that worked with him – most of whom requested anonymity for fear of reprisals from the library's current management – Huynh has had a history of falsely accusing other library staff of sexual molestation and of habitual lying. Although the library commission was made aware of Huynh's history, the library did not conduct an investigation into the matter but rather chose, at Price's direction, to support the allegations.

Price placed Philbrook on unpaid administrative leave, which three months later resulted in full termination of his employment with the San Francisco Public Library system.

Philbrook's co-workers, on the other hand, have been as supportive as management was dismissive.

"This is based wholly on suspicion, innuendo, and displeasure at John's outspoken stand on

the shortcomings of the New Main Library," current library staff members Andrea Grimes and Kary Wherner told the *B.A.R.* "They fired him from the position he held for 11 years. John was dedicated, and in his dedication in bringing quality library service to the children of San Francisco, he was marked by respect and admiration by most of his colleagues and received numerous awards."

Grimes said, "David Price failed in his job to give John the benefit of an unbiased investigation and allowed criminal charges to be brought against him."

Worse, said Wherner, Price and subordinates "tried to drum up statements against him [Philbrook]. It definitely seems like they were out to get him. They wanted to make an example of him to prevent further opposition."

Grimes went so far as to say, "Price should not be allowed in a managerial position. He's homophobic and I've heard that he's taken steps against other gay library employees where he is now employed in West Virginia. He threatened me with retaliation if I spoke up on John's behalf, and he's ruined people's lives."

### Time for justice

Grimes alleges that Price, along with former librarian Dowlin and administrator Page, denied Philbrook his right to due process before his firing in July 1996. All three have subsequently resigned.

Criminal charges against Philbrook were dropped July 30, 1998, according to a letter from the San Francisco Librarian's

Guild furnished to the *B.A.R.* The letter states: "Thus ends the criminal case and one of the darkest times in the history of the San Francisco Public Library. ... July 30 was a memorable day for library workers everywhere. Thanks, John, for never giving up."

Philbrook isn't giving up, especially since San Francisco's two daily newspapers publicized his case from the angle of an adult forcing sex upon a minor. The *San Francisco Chronicle's* last article on the subject contained the headline "Trial for Ex-SF Librarian On Child Molest Charges." The article did not explore the controversy surrounding the petition on the new building, nor did the *Chronicle* print a follow-up article stating that the San Francisco Superior Court dropped those charges.

"The *Chronicle* and *Examiner* have sensationalized charges of child molestation," Grimes told the *B.A.R.* "But there are many of

us still employed at the library who believe John [Philbrook] was used as a scapegoat. The case feels like McCarthyism and none of us believe that John molested Jesse [Huynh]. This kid has a history of lying and the harm that has been done to John is irreparable. Furthermore, I have written to the *Chronicle* and *Examiner* and have thoroughly documented the case, requesting that they print an article vindicating John.

"It hasn't happened. It's time for justice."

Several calls made to Price by the *B.A.R.* were not returned. The San Francisco Main Library confirmed to the *B.A.R.* that Page was "let go," but did not know where she is presently employed.

Philbrook has not received any compensation for the alleged damages, nor has he received an offer to return to his job at the library. Philbrook has filed a union grievance, which goes to arbitration later this spring. ▼

## AIDS assessment

◀ page 1

funds. Those funds provided support for 45 staff positions, and pay for staff travel, equipment, materials, and supplies.

The planning council has never conducted such an assessment before, and is seeking an independent contractor to perform the job. The council expects the project to cost between \$30,000 and \$50,000, which will come from money used to administer the city's CARE grant or from the planning council support budget. The council has also formed a Grantee Assessment Task Force to oversee the process. If all goes according to the council's timeline, the assessment could begin as early as April 15, with a report due to the planning council in June.

Planning council Co-chair Tom Calvanese told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the CARE Act requires councils to conduct such assessments, in order to determine if the grantee is getting funds out as expeditiously as possible. He couldn't explain why such an assessment is a first for San Francisco. "I don't know why historically it wasn't done before," he said, adding the solicitation for proposals is the end result of a process that started over a year ago. "It's the end point of a long process and another component of planning."

The proposal calls for interviewers and other staff hired for the project to be people living with HIV/AIDS, to the greatest extent possible. Calvanese said the planning council's ultimate goal is to have council staff support independent of the AIDS Office, since the council sees an inherent conflict of interest in the grantee – DPH staff – providing assistance to the planning council.

"The council is interested in quantitative and qualitative data, as well as recommendations for improvement of the grantee's functions," according to the proposal. Among the goals of the assessment, which will include an accounting audit, are:

• To evaluate the current structure and function of the DPH's HIV Health Services Division, and to determine its effectiveness in carrying out its responsibility to rapidly disburse the funds to the areas of greatest need.

• To evaluate and analyze the current structure and functioning of the accounting unit of the division, and to determine its effectiveness.

tiveness in carrying out its responsibility to rapidly disburse the funds to the areas of greatest need.

• To evaluate and analyze the current structure and functioning of the contracts unit of the division, and to determine its effectiveness.

• To evaluate and analyze the current structure and function of the program management component of the division, and to determine its effectiveness.

• To evaluate and analyze the current structure and function of the personnel management component of the division, and to determine its effectiveness.

• To compile the results of these analyses, and to formulate recommendations for improvement in the structure and function of the administrative mechanism of the grantee in order to improve the grantee's ability to get CARE funds to contractors as quickly as possible.

The solicitation poses several questions that the council wants answered, including: What is the current structure of the HIV Health Services Division and what is the rationale for this structure? Where within this structure are decisions made concerning the disbursement of CARE funds, and the rationale for the decision-making process? How the division's structure supports the accurate interpretation of the priorities set by the planning council?

Over the years, the planning council has often been at odds with DPH staff members in the HIV Health Services Division. Some on the council have voiced concerns that staffers would sometimes come to planning council meetings lacking materials requested by the council, or come to council meetings at the last minute with news that the council had to make immediate decisions regarding unspent CARE funds. There have also been questions of how quickly – or slowly – the contracts office is able to get CARE funds out to contractors. Some planning council members have also voiced concerns that DPH staff were not implementing the council's approved priorities, as mandated by the CARE Act.

"What we hope to get out of this is a set of recommendations on how the grantee can better implement the plans the council works very hard to produce," Calvanese said. ▼

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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

**Ira J. Kulkkin**  
August 7, 1949 — February 25, 1999



Ira L. Kulkkin of Berkeley was found dead at his home on February 26, 1999. Born and raised in Los Angeles, he moved to Berkeley to attend the University of California during the height of the Free Speech Movement.

He was an active member of the Discovery Community, and was a founding member of Congregation Ahavat Shalom, serving for many years as its representative to the World Congress of Lesbian and Gay Jewish Organizations. Friends at Ahavat Shalom will remember him for his exquisitely crafted Yom Kippur sermons, his willingness to pitch in, and his wry sense of humor. His bouts of depression always brought

out incredible insight.

Ira worked most recently as an administrative assistant at the Jewish Federation of the Greater East Bay and at Kaiser Permanente in Oakland.

Ira is survived by his father Julius of Oakland and his half-sister Barbara Dene of Thousand Oaks, as well as by those whose lives Ira touched over the years. A memorial service will be held Sunday, March 21 at 2 p.m. at Temple Israel of Alameda; meal to follow. Call (510) 522-9355 for directions. Donations in his memory can be made to the Pacific Center for Human Growth in Berkeley.

**Russell Carl Driscoll**

Russell Carl Driscoll, 42, a resident of San Francisco for 15 years, died Monday, February 22, 1999 after a long illness. He was the beloved son of Fay Whitaker and Frederick Driscoll of Fort Myers, Florida. He is also survived by two brothers, Ronald Driscoll, who is serving in the U.S. Navy in Japan, and

Richard Driscoll of West Warwick, Rhode Island. He leaves four nephews and many uncles, aunts, cousins, and friends.

A memorial service was held in San Francisco on February 27, 1999. Contributions may be made in Russell's memory to Project Open Hand or the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

**Robert H. Schimmel**

Robert H. Schimmel, a native of San Francisco, passed away in Palm Springs on February 19, 1999. He was 62.

Robert was the dearly beloved son of the late Dolores and Dick Schimmel. He is survived by his brother Michael Schimmel, cousin Gloria Lane, lover Robert Whittall, friends Frank

Braecklein, Bob Healy, and John W. Davis, and others who were close to him.

A Committal Service was held for him on Wednesday, February 24 at Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma. Donations in Robert's memory may be made to your favorite charity.

**Kenneth Wayne Pierce**  
April 19, 1963 — February 26, 1999

Kenneth Pierce, our beloved brother, expired Saturday morning at 10:39 a.m. at Davis Medical Center after a brief hospitalization for multiple medical problems. With him were his long-time good friends Reggie Thompsons, Barbara Lorraine Walk-Erin, and Tina Smith. He is survived by his parents, sisters, nieces, nephews and cousins. He will be sorely missed by all. Just remember we love you very much.

Farewell my Dearest Brother. It is a sad and joyous occasion for me. But I will get through it. I will miss all the things we used to do, and I'll miss the things you used to say. The places and sights that we have shared and enjoyed together — I will cherish them always.

In good times and bad, you were there, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. May your journey be sweet.

# Will the CDC require reporting HIVers' names?

by Bob Roehr

The issue of reporting HIV-positive people's names to secured health department records is heating up again because the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is nearing the end of a years-long process of changing the rules.

Most AIDS advocates agree that the current reporting system, based upon an AIDS-defining illness, is of little value in an era of combination therapy that keep many people from becoming sick. Many believe that a system, recording incidence of HIV infection is needed to better understand the changing demographic nature of the epidemic to guide prevention and service delivery.

The sharpest disagreement comes over the way those records should be gathered. One faction supports use of a coded system known as unique identifiers. They say the data collected will be just as good, individual privacy will be better protected, and as a result, people will be less fearful of getting tested.

"Mandatory names reporting is bad science, bad public health policy, and a waste of funds that should be directed to real AIDS prevention and healthcare," charges Catherine Hassens, an attorney with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

"By requiring me to report the names of those who test positive, the government drives a wedge between me and my patients. This is dangerous public health policy," says Robert L. Cohen, a physician and former vice president of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation.

Steve Morin, director of the AIDS Policy Research Center at the University of California at San Francisco, opposes names reporting "because there is significant evidence of a deterrent effect" on people getting tested for HIV. He says that the effect "is minimal for heterosexuals" and "very high for gay men. ... It is more of a psychological issue, they don't want their name on a government list."

## Mischaracterizing, trivializing

The CDC studied the unique identifier systems in use in Texas and Maryland and concluded that there were operational and structural flaws that compromised the data gathered. Texas is

moving to a names reporting system.

Furthermore, unique identifiers are more costly to implement, and there is conflicting evidence on the significant long term effect of names reporting on whether or not people get tested for HIV.

An early draft of its proposal called for mandatory names reporting. It later backed off from that position to urge, but not require, states to report the names of people who are HIV-positive.

Research in the area is limited and sometimes conflicting. Both sides can point to studies that support their positions; neither has a clear-cut edge.

Lambda circulated a letter of opposition to the CDC position for signature by others. The CDC "ignores or mischaracterizes the existing data against such systems" of names-based reporting, asserted the letter, released February 21. "The CDC has trivialized the serious concerns raised by community members regarding the harmful impact of names reporting on populations disproportionately affected by the epidemic."

The epicenter of opposition is New York. Last year the Legislature enacted a measure requiring names reporting. It was supposed to be implemented on January 1 but was pushed back to April 1.

"But it is turning out to be more complicated and more expensive than the proponents indicated," says Morin. "Where will the money come from?" he asks. "Will they eliminate prevention in order to record names?"

## No shows

The Lambda letter has some AIDS heavyweights onboard. The list includes the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York, AIDS Project Los Angeles, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, the

## GLBVA

► page 17

'Help?' That is not necessarily a gay issue and a lot of gay veterans don't know about it."

Clayton wants to "start hitting major corporate contributors" so that the national organization can give back to the chapters to support social services activities. He mentioned Boston, which "has the highest population per capita of blinded veterans." He yearns to be able to "buy them even a good sec-

AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, and the national AIDS Action Council.

But at least as interesting are the names that are not there. They include large service providers such as the Whitman-Walker Clinic in Washington D.C., AID Atlanta, and the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA).

Also scarce are organizations from states that already have adopted names reporting as their standard. The approximately 30 states are home to about a third of the nation's PWAs, and New York's implementation would push it over the halfway mark.

It isn't so much that people are embracing the CDC position but they see the spirited opposition to names reporting as "a distraction" from more important concerns, says Alexander Robinson. He resume includes work as an AIDS lobbyist for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and head of a prevention organization targeting African Americans. He is currently a consultant and sits on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.

"It is somewhat disingenuous to argue that somehow HIV names reporting is going to be more intrusive" than existing programs, he said. Lower income people "give up all sorts of information in order to have access to entitlement programs."

"They are more concerned about whether there is going to be something available in terms of care than whether or not you are going to take their name."

Robinson noted the limitations of either reporting system: they record "only the people who bother to show up to be tested." He said, "The real effort should be put into making sure that individuals know their status." ▼

ond hand van" to help ferry vets back and forth to the VA clinic.

That's a very full plate of activity for an all-volunteer organization. "People say, man, you ought to be burned out," recounted Clayton. "But I say, 12 years and I'm still going strong. I've still got that drive and ambition. I'm going to change my name to the Energizer Bunny." ▼

Contact GLBVA at PO Box 29317, Chicago IL 60629, or visit [www.glbva.org](http://www.glbva.org).

Richard Driscoll of West Warwick, Rhode Island. He leaves four nephews and many uncles, aunts, cousins, and friends.

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# Yard sticks

by Jim Provenzano

**M**y cousin Matt was visiting with his mom last summer. Even though he's only 10, as soon as both our moms started talking about us in the third person with us still in the room, we both rolled our eyes and headed outside.

I asked him what sports he liked these days. Usually, I don't ask that of kids, since I don't want to hurt their feelings if the answer is "none of the above," not have them think every adult demands it from them as required subject matter, (although I still can't convince my nephew why Goldberg's better than Stone Cold Austin).

Matt calls that "cartoons played by humans." He's a bright, sweet boy who has potential in soccer or anything, but is a bit disadvantaged, not having a full-time father. It shows. I could see him glancing at me in that way

you can tell they're just taking notes on how to behave.

The kid danced around me, kicking the ball. We dodged half-rotten pears that lay near the fruit trees along the edge of our yard.

A sheet of sweat coated my forehead. In summers spent playing other games here with boyhood pals, a shout of "Kickball! First Up!" was usually enough to get us underway until dinner. I'd wanted to play soccer, was totally apt for it, but back then it was "only for foreigners."

Now over a dozen teams crowd fields around town, escorted across town in SUVs. I hadn't stretched properly, and my knee was starting to act up, but I didn't dare stop, while Matt giggled at his superiority. He popped a goal past the rose bushes, but we continued our game as the ball led us to the front yard.

Across the street, in the house where my one of my childhood friends used to live, where a new

**Sports Complex**



Father and figures to look up to.

family I'd met only at Christmas was gathered on the driveway.

They had also started up a game, but the scraping from the small flock of kids and parents echoed a different sound. I heard the insistent whinings only a pre-teen can make, and as the neighbor waved us over, Matt and I gave each other a look of dread.

"Wanna play some hockey?" the invitation was shouted.

For a kid to start up a game with total strangers may be rough. For myself, my parent's neighbors probably respect me and my family, but are also relieved that, being a big homo, I

lives thousands of miles away.

Matt and I entered the fray with similar trepidation, but different reasons.

"Shall we?" I said.

Matt followed. "I guess."

Now, I think hockey's a great game. I love that we sent it with similar trepidation, but different reasons.

But maybe it's the equipment that encourages it. I don't know. No more than a minute into the "game," with plastic kid-size sticks and a little roller puck made for outdoor use, one of the other boys nearly burst into tears about some inane rules violation that Matt had committed.

Then there was a problem with team sides. Neither of us were clear whose team we were on.

"Keep your stick down, bud," Matt was chided.

A few girls occasionally came in and out of the game while a grandmother sat on a lawn chair, her bowl of chips and Jell-O salad ignored. The pair of dads tried to settle their young boys' tempers, but I couldn't help think, Who taught them to kvetch like this in the first place?

"Offsides, Dad!! Offsides!! He doesn't know how to play!"

Since "he" was my bud Matt, I became defensive. Suddenly I had a reason to do better, to show that kid up. But even my fumbled goal (darn right-handed stick!) was argued as out of bounds.

The most annoying child, it turned out, wasn't my neighbor's kid, but his brother's from out of town. It turned out my neighbor doesn't like the brats either.

But we were in this game, and even if I hit the puck in the wrong direction, or if Matt didn't understand the strange little ritual of hitting sticks before the puck was dropped on the asphalt court, we stuck it out.

Then Matt got whapped in the face with an errant stick.

I checked his face for blood, thinking "That's it," then winked at Matt, who seemed quite over the sticks and stones ritual.

"Oh my gosh!" I played it up. "I can see his brains coming out of his nose! We better get him to a hospital!"

With that I hauled Matt over my shoulder and raced off my neighbor's driveway. Matt giggling the whole time.

We escaped to my parent's yard and resumed kicking the soccer ball in pretty much whatever direction we felt like kicking it, until both our moms called us into dinner.

In gaining a burst of energy to continue playing, on a lawn where the points don't matter, I knew the distance between yards was more than a street.

"Are those your friends?" Matt asked.

"Just my parent's neighbors."

"What a ..." He decided not to use the term, or perhaps thought naming it was not even worthy.

"It was only my first time playing that game," Matt sighed.

"Me, too." ▼

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## WEEKLY PROCRIT for ANEMIA

A study to measure the effectiveness of a weekly injection of 40,000 units of PROCRIT in people who are taking anti-retroviral drugs and who have anemia.

HIV positive men and women between 18 and 75 years old.

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No current use of ganciclovir, cidofovir, ribavirin or interferon.

Not pregnant or breast-feeding.

## MERCK DOUBLE PROTEASE STUDY

Are two protease drugs better than one? This study compares 3 drugs to 4 drugs for people who are starting a protease drug.

Random assignment to either:

Crixivan 3 times a day plus d4T plus 3TC, or  
Crixivan 2 times a day plus Viracept plus d4T plus 3TC.

Viral load more than 10,000. CD4 cell count more than 100.

No prior 3TC or protease inhibitor use.

For more information about these studies please call Mark Bowers at 415-353-6215. HIVCare is a non-profit, community-based clinical trial program of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital.

## Sports events this weekend

**T**onight San Francisco will have a general membership meeting Saturday, March 6 at 3 p.m. at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center, located at 100 Collingwood Street in the Castro. Agenda includes committee reports, volunteers search, and info about the Federation of Gay Games meeting in April in Montreal.

### Gay Softball League opening

Supervisor Gavin Newsom will pitch the Opening Day game ball at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, March 7, at Moscone Field, on Chestnut, Laguna and Bay streets in San Francisco's Marina District. Lesbian Superior Court Judge Carol Yaggy will dedicate this year's season, and a color guard will present diverse flags from the American Legion Alexander Hamilton Post (the nation's only gay American Legion Post). For more info, call the GSL Hotline at (415) 436-0707 or visit their website at [www.sfgsl.org](http://www.sfgsl.org). ▼

Send sports events info to [homeo@pacbell.net](mailto:homeo@pacbell.net).

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**No right to orgasm in Alabama**

by Liz Highleyman

**O**n February 17, a group of Alabama women backed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) challenged a state law that prohibits the sale of vibrators and other sex toys. The lawsuit was brought before federal Judge Lynwood Smith in U.S. District Court.

The Alabama Legislature enacted the sex toy ban last year as part of a broader measure that outlawed nude dancing. The law prohibits the sale of "any device designed or marketed as useful primarily for the stimulation of human genital organs." In addition to vibrators and dildos, the ban would also likely apply to certain types of condoms. Violators are subject to a \$10,000 fine and a year in jail.

Four women testified that the law was a hardship because they are unable to achieve sexual gratification without the aid of sex toys. Attorney Mark Lopez of the ACLU argued that many therapists recommend such devices for women who have difficulty reaching orgasm. The ACLU also noted that it is legal for physicians to prescribe Viagra to enhance the sexual pleasure of men, but illegal to sell "marital aids" that enhance women's sexual pleasure.

The plaintiffs claimed that the ban violates their right to privacy. Sherri Williams, who operates a pair of boutiques called Pleasure which sell sex toys along with other products such as lingerie and candles, said, "They set out to eliminate strip clubs, but along the way they snuck in sex toys. Not only did they take away your entertainment, but they also took away your right to entertain yourself."

State attorneys countered that there is no fundamental right "to purchase a product to use in pursuit of having an orgasm." They pointed out that similar bans in Texas and Georgia have been upheld in the courts. State Assistant Attorney General Courtney Tarver noted that the law only bans the sale of sex toys, but does not prohibit their use or their acquisition in other states.

The ban is not being enforced while the suit is decided. Judge Smith has not indicated when he plans to make his ruling. ▼

**LEGAL NOTICES****City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services Request for Qualifications #154**

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) seeks individual to provide ombuds services to County Adult Assistance Programs (CAAP) Work Assignment/Workforce clients. Ombudsman will investigate, respond to, and assist in resolving concerns and conflicts between CAAP participants, City agencies and Multi Service Centers, where work is performed in exchange for public assistance. Contractor to provide 40 hrs/week of service for 62 weeks at rate of \$652/week. Total contract amount not to exceed \$43,924. Contract period: 4/23/99 - 6/30/00. RFQ packet available at DHS, 170 Otis St., 8th Flr., beginning 2/26/99, 9AM to 5PM. Pre-submittal conference on 3/12/99, 1:00PM, 170 Otis St., 8th Flr. RESPONSE DUE DATE: 1:00PM Mon., 3/22/99, NO EXCEPTIONS. For further information, call Esther Reyes at (415) 557-5864.

**City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services Request for Proposals #156**

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) announces its intent to seek proposals from individuals and organizations interested in contracting to provide family preservation services.

The contract will provide \$1,300,000 over the period from 7/1/99 to 6/30/01. This contract may be renewed depending on performance of contractor.

An RFP packet may be picked up at SFDHS, 170 Otis, 8th Floor beginning 3/1/99. Office hours are from 8am to 5pm.

The Respondent's Conference will be held on March 17, 1999 at 11:00 am in the 4th Floor Conference Room at 170 Otis, 8th floor, SF, CA. For further information, call John Tsutakawa at (415) 557-5680. Due date for responses is 4/1/99 at 5:00pm.

**Sista Monica to perform AIDS benefit Sat.**

by Mark Norby

**T**he Sierra AIDS Council proudly welcomes Sista Monica to headline the seventh annual Blues Benefit for AIDS this Saturday, March 6 in the John Muir building at the Mother Lode Fairgrounds in Sonora. The event promises to blast partygoers with "the most

sought-after contemporary blues/roots singer and songwriter on the festival, club, and concert scene today," according to Sierra AIDS Council Vice Chairman Gregory Oliver.

Sista Monica has quickly risen to international fame with the release of her two compact discs *Sista Monica* and *Get Out of My Way*. Her eight-piece band has been sharing stages with such

greats as Wilson Pickett and Koko Taylor, and has performed the Great Britain R&B Festival where Little Milton, Ike Turner, Pinetop Perkins, and Long John Hunter were all featured.

Tickets to the event are \$18 at the door or \$15 in advance, and are available by calling the Sierra AIDS Council at (209) 736-6792, or on-line at [www.sierraids.com](http://www.sierraids.com). ▼

**NCLR seeks volunteers for May fundraiser**

by Vicky Kolakowski

**T**he National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) is recruiting 75 volunteers to assist in hosting their gala annual dinner, which will be held in San Francisco on Saturday, May 15.

Comic Kate Clinton will emcee the event and popular disc jockey Page Hodel will provide

music for dancing after the dinner.

Volunteers get a buffet dinner, admission to the program, and a free 1999 membership in NCLR.

All volunteers work a common shift from 4-8 p.m. the day of the event, plus a second shift on either Friday night (6-10 p.m.), Saturday afternoon (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) or Saturday night (8 p.m. to midnight or midnight

to 2 a.m.).

Tickets to the event are \$125. The dinner is expected to raise more than a quarter of the agency's annual budget.

Founded in 1977, NCLR provides a variety of legal and advocacy services to address the legal needs of lesbians.

People interested in the event should contact NCLR's office at (415) 392-6257. ▼

**Lesbian comics to raise funds to send queer youth to Sacramento**

by Vicky Kolakowski

**A** group of popular East Bay lesbian comics will perform at a fundraiser next Thursday, March 11 to support East Bay participation in Queer Youth Lobby Day.

Karen Ripley, Janis Lipton, and other members of the OutSkirts

comedy troupe will appear for a night of stand-up and improv comedy on the Forum on the Diablo Valley College campus in Pleasant Hill.

"Please come join us for a wonderful night of stand-up and improv with some of the funniest lesbian comics around, and at the same time help a great cause," said event organizer Ken Levin.

Proceeds of the event will help

pay for transportation for East Bay youth to attend Queer Youth Lobby Day activities in Sacramento on Monday, March 22.

The comedy night takes place at 7:30 p.m., at the Diablo Valley College Forum (near the library) at 321 Gold Club Road, Pleasant Hill. Suggested donation is \$5. For more information, call the Rainbow Community Center at (925) 210-0563. ▼

**SU5416****for advanced KS lesions**

This is a Phase I trial of an intravenous drug that has shown improvement of KS lesions in an earlier trial. SU5416 is an anti-angiogenesis drug that inhibits the growth of KS cells. It is NOT a chemotherapy drug. The study requires bi-weekly infusions for one month. Thereafter, SU5416 is available to participants for up to one year.

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For more information,  
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Send letter, resume and 3 refs to AAMSC, SAP, 228 15th Street, SF, CA 94114. Fax 415-575-0166. No Calls please

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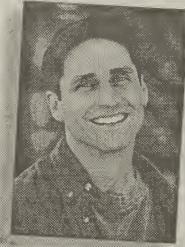
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February 13<sup>th</sup>: Songs from the Heart (A Cabaret Performance) 8:00 PM  
February 14<sup>th</sup>: Valentine's Day blessing of all relationships 7:00 PM  
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*We are a reconciling campus ministry dedicated to community and social justice; we are here as the future of our church and to serve in leadership with each other.*

**Required reading list**

New books by or about Marcel Proust, Rupert Brooke, Justin Chin, and more.

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**'Rent' al vehicle**

Producer Jeffrey Seller brings the musical to SF.

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**Queer 'Friends'**

'Relax...It's Just Sex' opens at the Castro.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 29 • No. 9 • 4 March 1999

## Hello again

Josie's reopens

by Richard Dodds

It's still called Josie's Cabaret, but Lazarus might be a more appropriate namesake. After a long swan song, the gay-friendly nightclub supposedly closed its doors for good on January 2. But Josie's has now sprung back to life, though its long-term future remains unclear.

Josie's reopened this week with German cabaret performer Tim Fischer, whose engagement will run through March 7. *Butt Pirates of the Caribbean*, a musical spoof seen last year at the San Francisco Fringe Festival, will run March 12-20. Tom Orr will begin an extended run of *Sweet Parody*, his one-man show recently at Venue 9, on March 14. The open-mike comedy night, a Monday night staple at Josie's, is also returning.

Ron Lanza, who has operated Josie's for the past decade, thought he had sold the business to a restaurateur when the highly publicized countdown to the cabaret's demise began late last fall. "But then the deal unraveled, and I guess I could have stayed open, but we had gotten all this publicity and I was so stressed out, I thought I'll just shut it down and that will be it."

Lanza did have several backup offers, all for restaurants, but had also been deluged by people unhappy that an important gay and lesbian cultural outlet would be lost. "I got to thinking, there's a lot of momentum here, and after a few weeks' rest, my juices were flowing again," Lanza said. "I'm willing to come back to meet the challenge of trying to pay down the taxes, pay down the landlord, and hopefully help someone take this thing over."

There has been some very tentative talk that Josie's could become a nonprofit gay cultural venue. Not that it has ever been much of a profit-making venture. "But thank goodness I have a wonderful relationship with my landlords," Lanza said. "They have allowed me to run up over \$100,000 in back rent in the 10 years I've been here."

Hoping to stem the red ink, Josie's will no longer be open during the day. "My biggest overhead was the cafe," he said. "I made a lot of stupid mistakes. I was learning from the seat of my pants."

Lanza insisted that his return will be a short-term affair. "I'm 62, and I have no intention of being here for 10 years," he said. "If it's going to be recycled into the gay cultural community, that will happen this year. If not, then it will all be over." ▶

## Let them eat irony

Scrumby Koldewyn's tribute to Berliner Kabarett

by Mark Mardon



Members of the cast of *The Untamed Stage*, from left to right: Scrumbly Koldewyn, Arturo Galster, Helen Shumaker, Kim Fowler, and David Bicha

Billy Douglas

The criteria for good cabaret, opines veteran San Francisco performer and music composer Scrumbly Koldewyn — one of the legendary Cockettes of the early 1970s — are that it have intimacy, a certain theatricality, and irony, not just sentiment and jokes. It makes fun of the audience. It says: "Fuck you!"

If he holds true to his convictions, Koldewyn and an assemblage of stellar cabaret artists will soon be sticking it to audience

members at The 7th Note Showclub in North Beach. In that appropriately intimate venue, Koldewyn will be producing and music-directing *The Untamed Stage* (in German: *Die Wilde Bühne*), which he promises will be "a spectacle of song, sexual hijinks and exotic dance."

The show's title derives from the Berlin "kabarett" that flowered after World War I in the progressive social, political, and sexual atmosphere of the times, until Hitler's as-

cession to power in 1933. Such places served as centers of radical art, anarchist ideas, and bawdy humor.

Koldewyn was inspired to recreate that atmosphere in San Francisco after a friend from the Black Forest region of Germany visited him in San Francisco and played a Berliner Kabarett album for him.

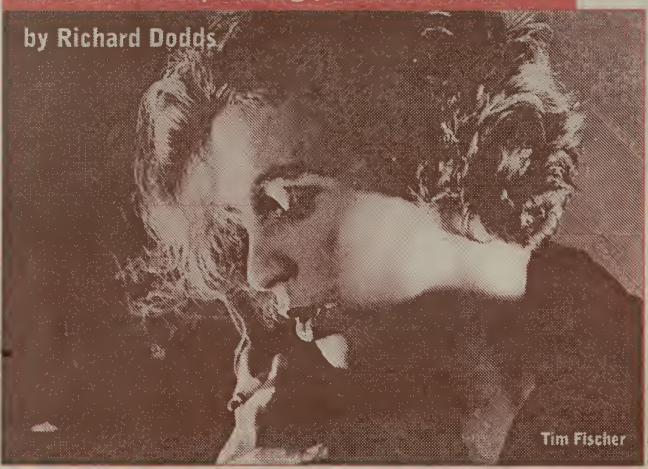
"I had always been interested in 'real' cabaret," says Koldewyn, but he found little

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## Fischer king

A cabaret prodigy comes to SF

by Richard Dodds



Tim Fischer

Gatfield Helmwein

by Roberto Friedman and  
Christopher Itchywood

Millennial San Francisco having a Weimar moment, or what? As this week's cover stories make clear, San Francisco audiences are set to experience an influx of Berliner cabaret in parallel though unrelated productions. Also this month, the Castro performance space with "Cabaret" in its name re-opens. Curiously, this same venue reaped all kinds of publicity — though not from us, we are happy to report — for "closing" in January, only to reopen pretty quickly thereafter, we'd say. History repeats itself: first as tragedy, then as return engagements.

At the same time, doesn't it seem like ages and ages since we shared a really good blind item? No wonder, since no one will confide in us these days, having figured out that a good gossip writer will betray exactly everyone he meets. But the other night we were a guest at a small, late dinner party, and the editor of a major gay skin mag, who was in town to make the rounds of the porn studios here, let slip that a major SF

studio runs such a tight ship that if one of his writers wants to interview one of their stars, he must submit the questions to the studio in advance for their approval. Not even Secretary of State **Madeleine Albright** is that tight-assed with the press! We mean, this is America, where you should be able to ask a porn star anything you want — broken down into simple one-syllable words, of course. We're shocked, shocked.

We finally caught that hit production of *10 Naked Men*, now held over at Theatre Rhinoceros through March, and we thought we were having a decadent Weimar moment. The irrepressible cast of male animals had been tipped off in advance that we would be in the audience, and they cooked up a little surprise for us. When porn worthy and My Place bartender **Max Stone**, as "Ex-Con," told his story about raping a young, innocent boy in prison, the boy's name was subtly changed from "Joe" to "Roberto." Gee, thanks for the honor, guys — we think.

**Falwell fall-out**

In response to fundamentalist demagogue **Jerry Falwell**'s recent Teletubby-bashing, his cousin, **Brett Beasley** of Raleigh, North Carolina, has decided to publicly come out of the closet and take his famous relative to task.

"He's had how many years to stand at his bully pulpit?" asked the riled Beasley in a statement to the press. "I'm certainly entitled to the same thing, and that's what I'm doing... It's like, hello Jerry, the same blood that runs through your veins runs through mine. There is a connection. So what do you have to say to that?"

What makes the story even juicier is that Beasley is featured nude in the March 1999 issue of *Men* magazine currently on newsstands.

The story will be in the next issue of *The Advocate*, but *Out There* readers might well jump at the chance to check out this issue of *Men* before it disappears from the racks.

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**Out There**



Taking a Picture in Front of Tiananmen, 1990, by Wang Jinsong

**Thick as board**

The *Chronicle's* Personal columnist **Leah Garchik** scooped us on this, but it bears repeating, since we're on the subject of fundie wackos with fascist streaks: It seems **Laura Ashley** Holdings, which retails home furnishings, has made Christian Coalition founder **Pat Robertson** a member of its board. We're sure L. Ashley furnishings are simply too delightful for queens who want to live in *House and Garden*, but this seems like an easy call for a national boycott.

**Sleeping giant**

At the same time that we've plunged into Weimar Germany, we're having a contemporary Chinese moment in San Francisco. If we seem a little schizoid around here, our theory is: it's the weather.

Our Chinese moment, actually through June 1, is going on at both the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Asian Art Museum, where *Inside Out: New Chinese Art* offers an amazing range of contemporary art from Mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. There's so much to see, we can only remark on a few of the highlights for us: the acces-

sible and perhaps overvalued Chinese Pop for those looking for the instant wow, including **Wu Tien-Chang's** *A Dream of a Spring Night*, the radical narrative in **Hou Chun-Ming's** panel painting *New Paradise*, in which the women grow penises and take over in a bloody coup; **Long-Tailed Elephant Group's** video installation with footage of construction sites and other urban scenes in Shanghai; and **Wenda Gu's** duo of installations *Babel of the Millennium* and *United Nations Series: Temple of Heaven*, in which he composes out of human hair collected from hundreds of barbershops worldwide, nonsense letters resembling characters from world alphabets. The show is an eye-opener to the invention and creative ferment going on in China today.

(Buried in a Saturday edition of the afternoon paper was the news that the San Francisco Architectural Heritage has filed suit to prevent the Asian Art's removal of the **Piazzoni** murals. We didn't have a chance to bring this up at the press conference, as we were soon steered into a delicious dim sum press lunch. To complain at this point would truly be biting the hand that feeds us.)

Incidentally, it's nice to see the

lesbian and gay movement's strange titular obsession with the word "Out" extending to the general population. Two shows currently in the same building (housing the de Young and Asian Art museums) sport banners which might have been titles of gay exhibits, say back in 1997: *Inside Out* and *Out of Bounds*.

**Full Stoppard**

What a thrill it was to see our favorite playwright, **Tom Stoppard**, in the flesh, attending the opening night of ACT's produc-

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Tom Stoppard

Courtesy Karen Kapoor

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*A Dream of a Spring Night*, 1995, by Wu Tien-Chang

## THEATRE

## 'The Harvey Milk Show' at NCT

# Supervisorman

by Richard Dodds

As Harvey Milk plants a kiss on his boyfriend's lips, a man mutters disapprovingly to his wife, "I could do without that." The kiss takes place on stage in a musical about Milk's life and times, but the complaining comment was not part of the act. That it should emerge unbidden from the audience even at a show that celebrates the gay-rights pioneer in his hometown suggests how deep-rooted, albeit now offered *sotto voce*, homophobia can be.

*The Harvey Milk Show*, subtitled *A Passion Play*, attempts the considerable task of recreating the San Francisco of the '70s that a gadfly from New York turned on its head, both in life and in death. The musical is part biography, part documentary, part fiction, and part iconography, and that it works as well as it does is an impressive achievement. And when the material sometimes slips into well-meaning banality or clumsy musical-comedy conventions, the striking commitment of the cast helps sustain the rough passages.

With book and lyrics by Dan

Pruitt and music by Patrick Hutchison, *The Harvey Milk Show* is finally having its San Francisco debut at New Conservatory Theatre after its 1991 premiere in Atlanta and a revival during the '96 Olympics. This is a concert version to benefit NCT, which means no sets or costumes, but the emotions are hardly stripped down in director Dennis Lickteig's impassioned production.

The script follows Milk's rise from a neighborhood agitator in the Castro, to his first unsuccessful run for Board of Supervisors, and then to his groundbreaking election triumph in 1977. His murder by former Supervisor Dan White is played out briefly, the drama coming in a replay of Dianne Feinstein's still-chilling announcement of Milk and Mayor Moscone's deaths. The songs, ranging from ballads to anthems to Broadway-style production numbers, are always agreeable, if seldom memorable.

While many of the characters emerge as little more than symbols, the authors created a relationship for Milk that lets him occasionally get off his soapbox to deal with issues of personal needs.



George Quick as Harvey Milk

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## ACT's 'Indian Ink'

# Passage to India

by Richard Dodds

*Indian Ink* finds Tom Stoppard lodged somewhere between the high-flying intellect of *Accadia* and the wry romance of his screenplay for *Shakespeare in Love*. Neither element is embraced with the passion that made these other works so memorable, but even somewhat-less-than-prime Stoppard is capable of substantial rewards.

Thanks to ACT and director Carey Perloff, San Francisco audiences are the first in the country to see the 1995 London stage success that examines from several perspectives the complicated relationship between Britain and India. The production, despite some tentative moments on opening night, is generally on track as it shuttles between eras and continents, histories and realities.

The eras are 1930 and the recent past, and in Stoppard's construction, they blend and overlap as a modern-day biographer tries to unravel the mysteries of an English poet who died in India some 50 years before. The mystery itself is mild, and only partly resolved, but the process lets Stoppard comment upon a cultural colonization that sometimes evolves into a more benign form of cross-pollination.

This is most evocatively suggested in the scenes between Flora Crewe, a spunky but ailing poet who has strangely chosen hot and humid India for a rest cure, and Nirad Das, a meek Indian painter who is also a passionate Anglophile. There is at least a hint of a simmering romance as Flora poses for a portrait, before emotions boil over as she literally tries to beat a cultural subservience out of him.



Susan Gibney as Flora Crewe

pletion on stage, playing Flora's sister, though a grand-dame Englishwoman is not a particularly good fit for the actress who was once so at home with Edith Bunker. But she still gets big laughs with her delivery of Stoppard's most waspish lines. "Men didn't matter to Flora," her character says at one point. "If they had, there would have been fewer." ▼

*Indian Ink* will run at American Conservatory Theater through March 21. Tickets are \$11-\$55. Call 749-2228.

This relationship has its contemporary variation in an encounter with the late Flora's now elderly sister, an unrehabilitated imperialist, and Nirad's grown son, a pragmatic progressive who has come in search of missing facts and artifacts of his father's life. The catalyst for this encounter is the implausibly obtuse American biographer who is in clumsy pursuit of Crewe's life.

Susan Gibney, who lost her head last season at ACT as Mary Stuart, takes on with considerable flair the far more winsome role of Flora. Gibney is mostly an ingratiating presence, though there are moments in the second act when she pushes too hard at a flapper-like flippancy. But her scenes with Nirad are always on target, and Art Malik's sensitive performance as the Indian makes one regret when his character disappears. As Nirad's son, Firdous Bamji provides a relaxed charm, but Ken Grantham's performance as the biographer accentuates the character's buffoonery when a tempering might have been more effective.

And it's a treat to see Jean Sta-

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# 'Radio'-active women

Cris Williamson and Tret Fure in Oakland

by Deborah Peifer

**T**he sad news is that if you don't already have your tickets for Cris Williamson and Tret Fure's appearance at the Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club in Oakland, you're too late — their show is sold out. The happy news is that you can buy their newest album, *Radio Quiet* (Wolf Moon), and hear what's new with these extraordinarily talented women. 'Radio quiet' refers to a place on the earth still enough to receive radio messages from space. Using the concept as a metaphor for the corporate takeover of the airwaves, they create an ironic tale of cosmic call waiting.

Several of the songs on this lovely CD use the everyday to create poetic, heartening and heart-rending tales. "On the Line" tells of a family's life as seen through the clothes Mama hung on the line. In addition to witty observations ("My sister, Ginny, was the next to leave/ But her clothes come home for the weekend line"), this is a song you'll love to dance to. Fure's paean to the "Tomboy Girl" will delight butchesses everywhere. You'll never look at the moon the same way again after you've heard the haunting "Moon Dust." And "DelRae (Tents of the Bedouin)" will set you free. *Radio Quiet* is gorgeous, happy, thoughtful — a delight for



Cris Williamson and Tret Fure

heart and mind. Call (510) 339-1832 for information on other Montclair events, including *Alive!* in April.

#### SBF...

... stands for *Single Black Female*, the new show at Theatre Rhinoceros. Lisa B. Thompson's

first play concerns straight and bi women, and is a departure for Rhino, so I thought I'd better speak to Artistic Director Adele Prandini about this move into less bent territory.

"There is a new generation of writers out there, and Lisa represents a new wave — a black bi



Playwright Lisa B. Thompson

perspective. Rhino has never presented a play written from a bi perspective. I think women will recognize much in this play — it brings us a new, fresh viewpoint. This play is very bright and very funny," Prandini enthuses.

Playwright Lisa Thompson thinks that "there is a lot written about being a black woman with fabulous black women friends who are alone and wondering why. But those stories, in novels and in movies, are always about heterosexual women in a heterosexual universe. I wanted to expand that universe. I also wanted to look at black women and their relationship to black gay men."

Thompson is no stranger to theatre. She performed *Dread Time Stories*, her own one-woman show about hair, but that experience convinced her that she would much rather write than act. "I'm working on stories now that focus on older black women. These are women who disappear from the cultural landscape when they age, and their stories need to be told." Until then, there's *SBF: Single Black Female*, a fast-paced look at the tribulations of single life and wanting it all, March 1 through April 10 at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th Street. Call 800-3217.

Front row \$20 orchestra seats for every performance of *Rent* at the Golden Gate Theatre will be sold by lottery on the day of the performance. Lottery cards will be available 2 1/2 hours before each performance (so camping out will not help your chances), and each winner can buy 2 tickets for \$20 each (cash only). If you don't feel lucky, call Ticketmaster, 512-7770 for full-priced tickets. ▼

and takes place at the Alcazar Theatre, 650 Geary, through March 6. The rest of the festival takes place at Il Teatro, 449 Powell, March 6 through 28, and features, among some astonishing others, the extraordinary Alison Wright in *Ms. Thang, Europe's That Way!*, The Latina Theatre Lab in *Last Stop Ranchera*, and Kathryn Roszak's *Pensive Spring: A Portrait of Emily Dickinson*. The Working Woman of the Year Gala on March 7 celebrates this year's honoree, Christina Augello, who deserves an armful of awards for her work for Exit Theatre and the San Francisco Fringe Festival. The party includes libations, entertainment, a silent auction, and a chance to congratulate Augello, so party down. Call 433-1172 for schedules and reservations.

#### Briefly

This appears to be the time for things Teutonic. The recently lamented and more recently resurrected Josie's Cabaret offers Tim Fischer in *Berlin Cabaret*, a look at contemporary as well as Weimar cabaret styles. Call 861-7933. Scrubly Koldewyn presents *The Untamed Stage: Where Everything Is Possible*, a rowdy tribute to The Berliner Kabarett, March 5-25 at the 7th Note Showcase, 915 Columbus Ave. (at Lombard). Divine decadence is guaranteed, and as many choruses of "Falling in Love Again" (ah, Marlene) as you can possibly wish. Call 820-3217.

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#### Women working

The fifth annual Working Women's Festival kicks off with *City Water Tunnel No. 3*, a multimedia tribute to the workers who built the 64-mile water tunnel under New York City. The Obie-winning piece was created and is performed by Marty Pottenger

If you have gossip, inquiries, or information of a performative nature, send them to [peiferd@aol.com](mailto:peiferd@aol.com) or via snail mail to the B.A.R.



Marty Pottenger stands in the tunnel which inspired her Obie-winning show *City Water Tunnel No. 3*. Pottenger appears in a limited run March 3-6 at the Alcazar Theatre, 650 Geary Street.

Photo: Brittan Stone

## An interview with producer Jeffrey Seller 'Rent' strike

by Richard Dodds

The boyish producer of *Rent* bristles at the notion that he might have been lucky. Jeffrey Seller, who shepherded the landmark musical from its earliest moments to its triumphant Broadway opening, wasn't just a

young wannabe producer who happened to be in the right place at the right time.

"A lot of people in the business saw Jonathan Larson's work and didn't like it," Seller, 34, said during a recent interview in his Manhattan office. "I saw things that others didn't. My partner and I got him because no one else wanted

ed him." Unfortunately, and famously, it was to be their first and last collaboration.

Larson, who wrote the book, music, and lyrics for *Rent* (now at the Golden Gate Theatre), was struggling to find his place in the theater when Seller first stumbled upon a rock monologue that Larson was performing in 1991. Seller, then a dissatisfied theatrical booker who dreamed of being the next Hal Prince, felt an emotional rush, and wrote Larson a letter offering to be his producer. They met, struck a bond, and Seller was present at each important moment in the evolution of the show that would become *Rent*.

"Jonathan wrote about a new kind of family that creates its own community transcending sexual orientations," Seller, who is openly gay, said. "That some of the characters are gay and some are HIV-positive is a given. What's interesting about *Rent* is where you go from there."

The musical, inspired by Puccini's *La Bohème*, is set in New York's East Village, where a collection of struggling artists — straight, gay, lesbian, and transgender — deal with love, hate, drugs, eviction, illness, and death. Hardly the typical stuff of success on Broadway, but that's where Seller felt *Rent* belonged, from its earliest previews at a small, out-of-the-way theater on Manhattan's lower East Side.

"It felt big," Seller said. "I said



Jeffrey Seller, producer of *Rent*

## The verdict is in 'The Trial of One Short-Sighted Black Woman...'

by April L. De Tally

What is the image of the Strong Black Woman at the end of the 20th century? What is the image of the black woman in media, in the workplace, or even in the home? These are just a few of the questions raised by Marcia Leslie's timely and culturally refreshing play *The Trial of One Short-Sighted Black Woman vs. Mammy Louise and Safreeta Mae*, directed by Paul Carter Harrison. Playwright Leslie directly challenges the media's portrayal of the black woman as being either the happy and subservient Mammy or the voluptuous vixen Safreeta Mae. Leslie also offers different images of today's black woman in the characters generically named Defense, Prosecution, and Judge.

The "short-sighted black woman" Victoria Dryer, brilliantly acted by Tina Marie Murray, is a young black woman who is ignorant of the history of her black ancestors and their struggles, both as slaves and as a brutally mistreated group of people. Clearly, she has never identified with any form of African-American heritage, historically or individually. Victoria is deeply appalled by the caricatures of the black woman that Mammy Louise and Safreeta Mae represent. She takes out a lawsuit against these media icons for their supposed misrepresentation of black women.

As court is called to order, the attorney for the Prosecution, played by S.E. Townsend, states her case against Mammy Louise and Safreeta Mae, laying the groundwork for events to unfold. The character Prosecution is clearly aligned with her client, Victoria Dryer, in failing to acknowledge the importance of heritage and historical fact in arguing the validity of her client's case.

The Defense attorney, played by Deborah Edwards, fearlessly interrogates each witness, despite the wrath of the Judge and Prosecution. Edwards commands a stage presence that makes the audience forget that they not jurors. Ms. Edwards' character Defense acts as the catalyst of revelation and self-examination for all of the other characters, bringing the trial to an emotional climax in the cross-examination of Mammy Louise.

### Soul train

The loving and robust Mammy Louise is played by actress Margarette Robinson, who is able to grip the heartstrings of the courtroom and her audience with



A scene from *The Trial...*

Adrian Orduna

her soulful recollections of her past. Mammy Louise challenges Victoria Dryer to familiarize herself with her own black heritage so that she can better understand her professional position as a young black woman in a predominantly male and white corporate environment.

Ultimately, when Victoria acknowledges Mammy's character as an historical misrepresentation, the past and the present collide in a way that brings this satire to a well-rounded conclusion. Robinson as Mammy Louise clearly states the play's theme when she says, "It is important for every black woman, man and child to embrace their heritage and to never forget it... Don't go 'round me, but come through me to know my history."

When I asked Murray (who plays Victoria) what she related to most within this play, she said, "We should all ask ourselves about our own short-sightedness and learn about the history behind our heritage. Learning the lesson of when and where you observe your past and how it affects you is key to personal success."

Notable mention goes to Mr. Peter Macon for his stellar performances as all the male characters in this play. Macon was aided in the appearances of his various identities by the ingenious craftsmanship and mask design of Stephan L. Dupuis. ▼

*The Trial of One Short-Sighted Black Woman vs. Mammy Louise and Safreeta Mae* plays at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, 620 Sutter St., Thurs.-Sun. through March 14. Tickets are \$20 and \$24. Call 474-8800.

to myself, "This must play Broadway. If this isn't what should be on Broadway, then I should pack my bags and head back to Michigan."

When the reviews for the production at the New York Theatre Workshop appeared in 1996,

there was little question that musical would be moving uptown. "People were throwing money at us," Seller said, and *Rent* was on Broadway less than three months later. There were full houses from

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# 'Relax...It's Just Sex' at the Castro Love, sperm, and other obsessions

by Gary Morris

**R**elax...It's Just Sex opens promisingly, with a very funny send-up of 1950s black-and-white educational films about "threatening" topics like homosexuality. A booming male voice intones, "This is a lipstick lesbian... This is a gay man, or what some might designate as a gym queen..." while said lesbian and gym queen revolve mindlessly on a dais like specimens at a zoo. The next scene we see is two naked men screwing blissfully in glorious color, a repudiation of seeing ourselves as clinical objects, as suggested by the opening. Writer-director P. J. Castellaneta keeps the laughs coming in the scenes that follow, preparing us for a light-hearted queer satire along the lines of, say, *Kiss Me Guido*.

It's a little surprising, then, when the story moves into much darker directions, introducing a series of reality checks — HIV, gaybashing, failed romance — that constantly threaten the cohesion of the likable group of queer and straight couples and singles presided over by fagtag supreme Tara Ricotto (Jennifer Tilly). It's to the director's credit that he modulates these elements, so there's always some welcome cutting dish or satirical jab or authentic emotion to counter the film's tendency toward cliché and sentimentality.

In this queer version of *Friends*, Tara nervously watches over her ensemble of fractured faggots, overwrought dykes, and her emotionally elusive boyfriend Gus (Timothy Paul Perez). Her main "girlfriend" is Vincey Sauris (Mitchell Anderson), a frustrated playwright looking for love and artistic success. Sarina (Cyndy Williams) and Megan (Serena Scott Thomas) are lipstick lezzies involved in a painful divorce when Megan goes straight and Sarina takes up with scruffy baby butch Robin (Lori Petty). Meanwhile, Tara's boyfriend's brother Javi (Eddie Garcia) learns he's HIV-positive, and moves in with an eccentric artist named Buzz (T. C. Carson).

As in all such ensembles, the characters spend much of their time in crisis. Tara's desperate to have a kid, so she wears out poor Gus by trying to extract his sperm using every possible position and at every opportunity, even while guests are arriving for a party.

Jennifer Tilly as Tara Ricotto in *Relax...It's Just Sex*

Vincey's cute but can't find a boyfriend; he's still troubled by having been gaybashed in college. Sarina's barely able to cope with her ex-girlfriend's hetero conversion, and her new lover Robin worries endlessly that she won't be able to replace the gorgeous Megan. Javi and Buzz bitch and bicker over Javi's medical treatments (in a timely if controversial touch, Buzz repudiates the link between HIV and AIDS, à la Peter Duesberg). Meanwhile, the fucked-out Gus wants to run off to the Middle East to find himself, and a pair of brainless happy-faced Christian gym queens provide window dressing.

#### Swallow or spit?

If ridiculing gym queens is a bit too obvious to be interesting, the film's satire of other subjects keeps things lively. Early on, Vincey conducts an informal survey of whether people "swallow or spit it out" after their partner comes, and the final word on this comes from a group of women who reveal a little-known secret: "We spit it out in mason jars and examine it at our weekly women's meetings." Vincey's equation of love with ingesting his tricks' come also amuses: "And so I swallowed... at that point, I felt I loved him." Sperm is a veritable obsession here; even Tara can't stop talking about it: "All I ask for is your honesty and your sperm," she tells a weary Gus.

The film doesn't discriminate in setting up its targets. Queer activism is skewed in a scene with

Susan Tyrell and Seymour Cassell as Megan's British parents, who are horrified when she turns straight. Tyrell in particular is hilarious in her tirades against this betrayal: "What will I tell my friends in P-FLAG?" she screams. After failing to force Megan to remain a lesbian, she insists on toasting Sarina, the ex-girlfriend, when she meets her daughter's new man. And the insularity of queerdom is a frequent butt of jokes. During their breakup, Megan sighs to Sarina: "We haven't had good sex since Martina won Wimbledon."

Jennifer Tilly is the standout among the cast. As Tara she's tremendously warm and giving, instantly believable as the sheltering straight woman whose obsession with helping her friends get their lives together provides the anchor they all need. Tilly's physical voluptuousness and a voice that's a mix of baby-doll squeak and authoritative rasp make her endlessly fascinating to watch. Lori Petty also registers strongly as the mini-butcher overcome by her feelings for Sarina. Petty, like Tilly, isn't afraid to flaunt her emotions, and she does it particularly well in a scene where she overhears a potentially life-changing conversation between Sarina and Megan. Alas, the men don't fare as well. They're all serviceable, but none hit the emotional bull's-eyes that Tilly and Petty do. And those pesky gym queens could easily have been omitted entirely. More rewarding is a near-cameo by Paul Winfield as "Aunt Mahalia," an aging queen who provides sage advice and a motherly embrace and calls every young man "young lady!"

On a grimmer note, Castellaneta takes a chance with a gaybashing scene that's as raw and violent as something out of *Boyz in the Hood*. There are some troubling elements here, particularly in Vincey's unlikely actions in response to the straight boys out of control. (Best not to spoil it for you by spelling this out.) But like much of the film, the scene has a visceral impact that's undeniable, and prepares us for the powerful last few minutes, which will have some viewers fumbling for their hankies. ▼

Mitchell Anderson as Vincey Sauris in *Relax...It's Just Sex*

**Relax...It's Just Sex** opens Friday, March 5 at the Castro Theatre.

# 'Women's madness'

## Surrealist films by women at Cinematheque

by Gary Morris

**S**urrealism is often thought of as a specific movement, limited to a group of 1930s and '40s intellectual artists (mostly men) who issued manifestos, created Freudian dreamscapes with melting watches and cups lined with fur, and generally raised hell in the art world. But the concept permeates our culture, and the word "surreal" has become part of the popular vocabulary. And no wonder. Look at the Clinton situation: Democrats have had to defend a president who is bombing Iraq more than Bush did, while Republicans grandstand against sexual harassment. It's a surreal world after all.

But perhaps it's always been that way; at least it would seem so from the S.F. Cinematheque's *Radical Re-Presentation: Women, Surrealism, and Film* series. This is a three-night event (March 7, 14, 21) that showcases the influence of surrealist strategies — fragmentation, dreamscapes, eroticism, and madness — on a group of filmmakers (mostly women) whose work spans nearly seventy years, from 1928 to 1994.

The 1928 entry by Germaine Dulac, *Arabesque*, was not available for previewing, but Maya Deren's seminal *Meshes of the Afternoon* was. This 1942 experimental film used dreamy atmospheres, multiple exposures, mysterious movements by shadowy characters, and alternative endings to attack conventional narrative. In doing so, Deren established the trance film as a viable form, created a textbook classic, and made it easier for other artists of both sexes to challenge the primacy of the narrative and other cinematic sacred cows.

If *Meshes of the Afternoon*'s dreamscape mines the same kind of apolitical, interior world that fueled much of early surrealism, a 1988 work like Mona Hatoum's *Measures of Defiance* uses dream imagery and multiple exposures in the service of a social critique. The film is an increasingly seductive series of static shots of pages of letters written from a Palestinian woman to her daughter in England (the filmmaker), along with shadowy images of the mother taking a shower, and a voiceover reading the letters. Of her husband, the woman says: "He can never forgive you [Hatoum] for taking those pictures of me in the shower... he calls it women's madness!"

### Harvey Milk

◀ page 31

though the play would be more interesting if it allowed Milk a dark thought or a doubting moment, Quick's energetic performance helps fuel the production. The authors did provide Jamey, the hustler whom Milk takes in, with a messy history and warring emotions, and Justin Cole communicates them in a gripping performance.

Steve Rhyne plays Dan White as a ticking time bomb who would have trouble getting elected in Kosovo, while Robert W. Visini plays with a dastardly spin a character meant to encapsulate all heterosexual evil. Lianne Marie Dobbs is an appealingly perky in-

#### Body work

Complex mother-daughter relations underlie several of the works here, all imbued with surrealist strategies. One of the best is Ngozi Onwurah's *The Body Beautiful* (1991). The story looks at the prison of body norms through a white mother who's undergone a radical mastectomy and her black daughter who is also, in a sense, objectified and diminished when she becomes a model. Onwurah's real mother stars in the film, which interweaves transgressive fantasies of the mother making love with a hunky, much younger black man with dreamlike tableaux of mother and daughter in a public sauna. The latter's denunciation of her mother — "You titleless cow!" — is wrenching, but counterpointed by scenes of the two of them lying naked in bed together talking quietly.

Gunvor Nelson looks at the ravages time inflicts on her mother in *Time Being* (1991). This brief black-and-white film opens with a photo of a smiling, robust middle-aged woman, the filmmaker's mother, then switches to a series of increasingly unsettling shots of the same woman near death in a hospital bed, her mouth wide open as she gasps for air. Nelson's fragmentation of her mother — the camera moves ever farther back to show she's no longer herself, but part of the room — is a bitter commentary on what life is doing to the same woman.

A good counterpoint to *Time Being* is Barbara Hammer's buoyant *Dyketactics* (1974). This is the film that Hammer initially tried to have shown only to women (she later relented). In four short minutes, the filmmaker convincingly describes a Dionysian world of lesbian excess, with naked women rolling around together in groups, laughing, making love, and just having a great time.

The world of experimental film has its superstars, and Chick Strand is one of them. She's represented here with two strong entries from 1976: *Elasticity* and *Mujer de Milfuegos*. Strand shoots much of her work in California and Mexico, and in the latter film, she uses her sinewy style — disorienting images and movements, found footage, double-exposures, "psychedelic" imagery — to explore the world of a Mexican woman whose elaborate fantasies liberate her from the drudgery of the Third World domestic. Strand's whimsical wit, which

often recalls Buddhist parables, is evident in the thoughts of her main character, which appear on-screen: "I learn that the world goes around, so I'm waiting here for my house to pass by." *Elasticity* is a hypnotic, fragmented film with a series of powerful images. In one sequence, a silhouetted figure careens through space in a vertiginous shot, not only a compelling image in itself but one that typifies the bravado of much of the work in these programs. ▼



Geoffrey Nelson

NICE FILM

Barbara Hammer

often recalls Buddhist parables, is evident in the thoughts of her main character, which appear on-screen: "I learn that the world goes around, so I'm waiting here for my house to pass by." *Elasticity* is a hypnotic, fragmented film with a series of powerful images. In one sequence, a silhouetted figure careens through space in a vertiginous shot, not only a compelling image in itself but one that typifies the bravado of much of the work in these programs. ▼

**SF Cinematheque's Radical Re-Presentation: Women, Surrealism and Film** screens in three programs, March 7, 14 and 21 at 7:30 p.m. at SF Art Institute, 800 Chestnut St. For more information, call 558-8129.



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# Relax... It's Just Sex!



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Music Supervisor: RICKY RYSTAK, Co-Producer: DAVID DORN, TOM SED, P.J. CASTELLANETA, Executive Producers: ELI KABILLIO, CEVIN SOUNG  
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## Untamed Stage

◀ Arts cover

to inspire him in San Francisco because "cabaret in the city has degenerated" since the days of the celebrated Black Cat.

As it happened, Koldewyn was studying German when his friend arrived with his recording, and on a whim, the two decided to put together a Berliner Kabarett evening at Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint, using material transcribed off the album. The show debuted in August of last year and was greeted enthusiastically by audiences.

So energized was Koldewyn, he decided to visit Germany and seek out original sheet music for works by renowned cabaret composers Friedrich Hollaender and Misha Spoliansky, both of whom employed satire and political wit in their songs.

### Big score

In Germany, Koldewyn discovered a kabarett renaissance in full swing. He also found the sheet music he was looking for. From Spoliansky archives he unearthed scores for (among other songs) "It's All a Swindle," which skewers bankrupt political and economic morals; "The Smart Set," a satirical take on the intellectual avant-garde; and "Maskulinum-Femininum," a take on gender "confusion." From Hollaender collections he gleaned "Shag Tobacco," about being bored with being degenerate; "Peter, Peter," about a promiscuous woman longing for her ever-faithful; and the classic number made famous by Dietrich, "Falling in Love Again."



Scrumbly Koldewyn

All of these songs will make their way onto the stage of The 7th Note from March 5th through the 25th, when *The Untamed Stage* recreates the rowdy Berliner Kabarett, "where everything is possible."

Joining in the production with Koldewyn are (among others) David Bicha, star of 1997's *Dirty Little Show Tunes*; Arturo Galster, famous for his Patsy Kline impersonation; jazz singer extraordinaire Chesty Baker; Beni Ocker, Koldewyn's friend from the Black Forest, who is a contemporary vaudevillian in Germany; Leigh Crow, the artist formerly known as Elvis Herselvis; Helen Shumaker, best known for her successful one-woman show *Mona Rogers in Person*; and Robert Ernst, who in his 27 years in the Bay Area has appeared on virtually every local

stage.

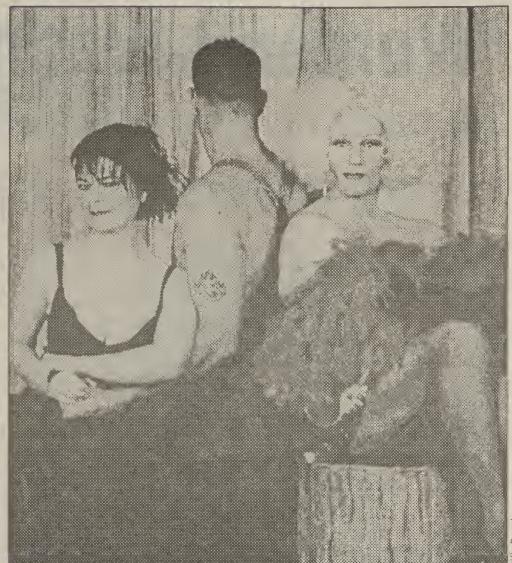
But the best magic of the evening is likely to come from Koldewyn. An affable, handsome, square-jawed man, he exudes confidence and an enthusiasm bordering on obsession for his current project. He also tells fascinating stories about his colorful past with the Cockettes and other groups.

When he came to San Francisco in 1969, Koldewyn started playing a big Hammond organ in a rock band at gay dances. His idols then were the Doors, Hendrix, and their ilk.

But he could also play honky-tonk piano, and that's what he did for the very first performance of the rowdy Cockettes in 1970, at the Palace Theater, in what would soon become a wildly popular monthly show featuring all manner of Bowie-influenced glam hippie freaks. Koldewyn, at times decked out in patchwork velvet pants, would pound out wacky original compositions like "Gone with the Showboat to Oklahoma" and compose rib-tickling numbers for shows with names like *Journey to the Center of Uranus* and *Hot Greeks*.

It was with the Cockettes that Sylvester sang his way to stardom, that Curt McDowell screened his revolutionary queer films, that Divine created some of the memorably trashy characters that would gain her world-renown, and that many others became immortalized in the annals of queer and cabaret history.

(Notably, the unabashedly queer Cockettes were founded by George Harris, aka "Hibiscus," who had attained celebrity status for appearing in a famous news



Helen Shumaker and Arturo Galster in *The Untamed Stage*

photograph as the student anti-Vietnam War demonstrator placing the long stem of a flower down the barrel of a National Guardsman's gun.)

While the Cockettes endured only a short time (their last show was in July 1972), it spun off another famous group, The Angels of Light, and launched Koldewyn into a lifetime of cabaret, including long stints with The Distractions and his most recent vocal trio, The Jesters.

Koldewyn's current Berliner Kabarett project will draw upon

his nearly 20 years of experience entertaining audiences, composing and performing crowd-pleasers, and telling audiences "fuck you" in the nicest way possible. ▶

**Scrumbly Koldewyn's *The Untamed Stage* plays March 5-6, 10-11, 17-18, 24-25 at the 7th Note Showclub, 915 Columbus Avenue (at Lombard). The showtime each night is 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15; call (415) 820-3217.**

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## Out on video

### Mann crazy

by Will Shank

*Love and Death On Long Island*  
Directed by Richard Kwietznews  
ki (Universal Home Video)

In a screenplay that is part *Death in Venice* and part *Lolita*, John Hurt plays the closeted British writer Giles De' Ath (yes, the name is certainly a nod to Thomas Mann). After mistakenly entering a theater showing an American teeny-bopper movie, the stodgy old fart finds himself obsessively in love with the leading man, dreamy, blue-eyed babe Ronnie Bostock (Jason Priestley). In a position to pursue his obsession, Giles does

just that, insinuating himself into the young actor's life, home, and marriage in suburban New York. Hurt is wonderful and touching as the aging writer who discovers an unexpected side of himself. And Priestley, well... he looks great. Comparisons to Ian McKellan and Brendan Fraser in *Gods and Monsters* are inevitable, and the two films will make a great double feature at the Castro Theatre someday.

*Wilde*  
Directed by Brian Gilbert  
(Columbia Tri-Star)

Jude Law might well make a career out of playing the unscrupulous, Pretty Young Thing to

the unsuspecting Older Man. He was a Savannah hustler in last year's *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, and this time he is perfectly cast as the perfectly awful Lord Alfred Douglas, who was the unlikely object of Oscar Wilde's undying devotion. The homos that Wilde practiced openly several decades before it was acceptable is vividly depicted in this beautifully made film, which is otherwise a moving plea for human dignity in the face of prejudice. I found the cinematic version of Wilde's life far more compelling than the stage play, *Gross Indecency*, and actor Stephen Fry looks uncannily like the persecuted playwright. ▶



John Hurt and Jason Priestley in *Love and Death on Long Island*



Stephen Fry as Oscar Wilde

## CABARET

## Tim Fischer

◀ Arts cover

macabre songs."

The slender, androgynous Fischer arrived for the interview in a blue pinstripe suit, high-top sneakers, and a fedora atop a head of shoulder-length hair. He speaks some English, though he mostly answered questions in German, with translations provided by Dieta Sixt, director of Goethe-Institut San Francisco.

"Growing up, I was always told I was different," Fischer said. "I wasn't one of those strong, fighting types. Very fragile, and they said, 'Oh, you have to go see a doctor immediately, otherwise you will end up in prison or the loony bin.' Instead, at age 14, he wound up on stage.

That was his age when he discovered Zarah Leander, a husky-voiced chanteuse who appeared in German propaganda films during the war and later became an icon for gay Germans. "She's a parody of a parody," Fischer said, and he began his career by wandering through clubs doing his imitations of her. A few years later, he scored his first high-profile success with a one-man show about Leander that brought a contemporary edge to his search for emotional truths in her songs.

## Tastes bud

His parents, whom he has described as ex-hippies with a continuing fondness for drugs, didn't understand their son or his musical tastes. "They thought the music that interested me was more like music for old folks, and old women, especially," Fischer



Tim Fischer, 'the Blue Angel of German Chansons'

in the process of creation, working as an artist, is that it's not that different from being a hooker. One you do bodily, and one you do mentally."

There are no romantic attachments at present, and he doesn't regret that either. "In Germany, people are admiring me a lot, but what man would be able to stand my having that admiration? Up to now it hasn't worked out. If want to have sex, I go somewhere and have sex, but I don't need a relationship. They always think I'm like the stories I tell on stage, and they have a specific image of me, but you can't keep that role-playing in your private life, too."

Fischer saves most of his passion for his work. "My judge is my own emotions," he said, "and if I say what this song has to say is correct, then it's like these songs are attacking me, like they are all over me. First they try to possess me, and then I try to possess them."

For Fischer, his time in front of an audience is the reward for all the work behind the scenes. "My career is unusual in that normally people who become famous have a whole company around them to do everything for them, but I feel I must do it myself, because I have to stand behind what I do. In the stressful life that I lead, the moments on stage are the most beautiful to me." ▶

said. He left home for good when he turned 17, and has terminated all contact with his parents. "My real family is my friends."

There were some tough times after he headed first for Hamburg and then for Berlin. He worked for a time as a prostitute, and he had his own excesses with drugs and liquor. But there are no

apologies.

"The drugs and alcohol, they are something that abets you in just getting out of yourself and approaching others," he said. "At present, I'm clean, but if I am not dead in a few years I'm sure I will take drugs again."

As for his stint as a rent boy, Fischer said, "What's interesting

## Rent

◀ page 33

the start, and the Tony Award and the Pulitzer Prize followed in quick succession.

"When Jonathan Larson was ready to write a big musical I was ready to produce a big musical," said Seller, whose major producing credit had been a tour of *The Real Live Brady Bunch* that played San Francisco in 1993. "But the sordid thing about this story is that Jonathan didn't live to see all that has happened."

Larson died unexpectedly of an aortic aneurysm hours before *Rent* was to face its first audiences. He was only 35.

"I came into work that morning ready for the first preview," Seller recalled. "We had a great final dress rehearsal, though Jonathan said he didn't feel well. It's hard to relay the shock and surreal quality of the days following his death. But the only thing to do was forge ahead."

## Rebel rebel

*Rent* will soon celebrate its third anniversary on Broadway while two touring companies have been crisscrossing the country. The Broadway production found a good fit at the Nederlander Theatre at unfashionable 41st Street, a borderline-shabby venue that was further distressed to mirror the rebellious tone of the musical. In San Francisco, Seller would have preferred to present *Rent* at the relatively intimate Curran Theatre, but it was still tied up with *Phantom of the Opera* when decisions needed to be made, and the musical is making its home at the Golden Gate Theatre.

"We've spent about \$100,000 to make the theater more *Rent*-friendly," Seller said. "We've distressed it, or decorated it, and taken out several rows in the bal-

cony trying to make it a little more intimate. But on the road there's only so much you can do, and besides, the most important thing is what happens when the lights go down."

San Francisco is the end of the line for the touring company here, and it will stay as long as business holds. "We're booked for 10 weeks, but if we're lucky I think we can get four or five months out of it," Seller said. "We've hand-picked the cast so we could have the best cast for San Francisco."

The various casts, Seller said, are not required to be cookie-cutter variations on the New York originals, and that helps keep the show fresh. "I mean no disrespect to *Phantom of the Opera*, but if you've seen one... With *Rent*, we cast unique people who can interpret the roles in different ways. And we're always casting, always looking for the youngest, rawest talent."

## Beyond the 'rents

*Rent* has certainly helped to bring younger audiences to Broadway. "Fifty percent of our audiences are under 35," Seller said. "I'm not interested in creating theater for my parents. I want to create theater for my peers, theater that breaks the rules."

His first post-*Rent* production is *De La Guarda*, a performance piece playing at an off-Broadway theater with no seats, and where most of the action takes place above the audience's heads. He has four more projects at various stages in the pipeline.

"I see *Rent* as a launching pad for me to do what I think I do well, which is to nurture emerging artists, and when the work is ready, to market it effectively," he said. "I come from a poor family, so I can't be a moneybags producer. I have to be a creative producer."

Well, *Rent* has certainly put

more money in the bank, enabling Seller and his boyfriend Joshua Lehrer to buy a summer home and take luxurious vacations, but he said his workaholic nature is driven by the "nagging fear you're going to be poor again tomorrow."

Growing up in a suburb of Detroit, his parents may have struggled with expenses, but they could usually find the money for family outings to touring Broadway shows. Even in synagogue, the young Jeffrey was getting his theatrical feet wet. In the fourth grade, he performed in a musical about Purim set to the music of *South Pacific*, with a Gilbert and Sullivan song thrown in for good measure.

"I started doing a lot of community theater, and I found myself wondering who chooses the plays," he said. "That was the biggest sign I was going to be a

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# Monica, Monica, Monica!

by Victoria A. Brownworth

It's all over but the whining. Since *Impeachment!* ended, the networks — particularly ABC (All 'Bout Clinton) and NBC (Nothing But Clinton) — have been lost, searching for live news like St. Bernards after an avalanche. In fact, the all-the-same-news-all-the-time cable outlets, notably CNN, MSNBC and Fox News, have lost 30 percent of their ratings since the verdict came in. The Sunday morning talking heads tried to get it up again for Clinton, but the best they could do was endless "will she or won't she" postulating on Hillary's possible run for the New York Senate seat being vacated after a century by Daniel Patrick Moynihan. Call this weak link "From Carpet Stains to Carpetbagger." (Though the more we see of the racist Mayor Giuliani, the more we hope Miz Clinton runs him to ground.)

There's no question the Lewinsky saga is now old news — which may explain why Barbara Walters, who has been doing TV since it was radio, got first lick at a face-to-thong interview with the Gigar Girl herself. Last night's two-hour soffest (the only bodily fluids exchanged were tears) had the shot-through-gauze look of an episode of *Touched by an Angel* with all the attendant sugar shock. The set was so many variant shades of beige with so many camera angles it looked like *Nude Descending a Staircase* (we kept waiting for Sister Wendy to wander through). Talk about falling into the Gap — being sucked (no pun intended, really) into the vortex would be a more apt description. No doubt ABC hoped the whole nation, going through *Impeachment!* withdrawal, would be desperate for any kind of fix.

Sad but true. We watched, transfixed, as this car wreck of an interview spiraled out of control before us. Walters was at her most insinuating. Leaning forward, a finely tuned mix of earnestness and concern on her face, she queried of a tear-dazed Lewinsky, "Do you still wove da Pwesident?" It was like a scene out of some old Susan Hayward movie — or was it Liberace? All that was missing was the deepening swell of violins.

But then there were the serious questions. "How did you dare to show the President your underwear?" And of course our personal favorite question was: "Linda Tripp said she would like to give you a hug. What would you like to give her?" Lewinsky's reaction mirrored our own: She shivered all over, a semi-crazed look on her face. Interesting how the answer is the word we most associate with Tripp: *Slug*.

But despite this *frisson*, we learned little new about Lewinsky (except that she looks a lot sleeker, prettier, and does have a very nice mouth), the President, Linda Tripp, Ken Starr, the cigar, the dress, the kneepads — only the framing of the Q & A differed from the Starr Report and the Tripp

Tapes. Walters was kinder than Starr and sassier than Tripp, but Lewinsky, who came across as remarkably guileless, has, alas for us scandalholics, exhausted her story.

But take heart — TV has not. Despite the fact that the Tripp Tapes didn't win for Best Spoken Word, Best Rap or even Best Alternative at last week's Grammy Awards (no, that was a different Monica), Lewinsky hasn't worn out her welcome on the small screen yet. The bidding war is on for interview number two. Among the contenders: *Oprah* (who was so incensed that Walters got first crack at the crack, she threatened

to trash Lewinsky for not doing her show first), *Larry King Live* and *Roseanne* (if anyone can get the girl to dish it up, *Roseanne*'s the gal to do it; that show's a virtual wal-

low). Speaking of wallowing, what we really want is for the WWF to spot mud-wrestling with Monica and Tripp. Now there's a show worth pay-per-view (though you'd definitely need a widescreen).

#### Trump card

Meanwhile, we are starting to feel more than a bit slighted. Are we the *only* American female who hasn't been approached by Bill Clinton? NBC tried to trump ABC by interviewing Jane Doe Number 6 trillion and ten, Juanita Broaddrick, prior to the Lewinsky event. How creepy was this interview? She looks like Clinton's grandmother. Apparently she didn't get the makeover that is *de rigueur* for women making accusations against the President. (And really, could these gals stop buying at K-Mart? Rosie may do those commercials, but even she doesn't get her clothes there.)

Broaddrick claims Clinton pushed his way into her Arkansas hotel room and forced himself on her 21 years ago. Her climactic line: "I just finally couldn't keep it to myself any longer." Apparently she could keep it to herself when she was asked to swear in a series of affidavits, as recently as a year ago, for Paula Jones, *et. al.* There she denied Clinton ever touched her.

Rape isn't perjury; it is the most heinous of crimes save murder. If Clinton actually raped her, as she claims, Broaddrick owes it to other women to be telling her story to a district attorney. But, pardon our cynicism, there's no money or fame in that. (Or even potential makeovers.)

Speaking of scandals, the other sad tale that just won't die is the Telebubby Tragedy. Now that the political pundits have sunk their teeth into this little media morsel, call this episode *Tinky Winky Goes to Washington*. Any hope that this moment of Christian Coalition craziness would just gasp a final tiny breath are gone. Though one TV moment managed to rise above the salacious. The hetero hissy-fit team of James Carville and Mary Matalin were doing their thing on NBC's *Meet the Press* on Sunday, and Tim Russert gave Carville a *Tinky Winky* doll. Carville promptly kissed it on the mouth and continued to rub it against

his bizarre Humpty Dumpty head. Matalin noted, "Everyone knows Po is the gay one." (The couple do have two children under five.) Then she added, "If Republicans are going to gaybash their way through the next election, then we don't deserve to be the majority party." Our only question: How can a woman this butch and this smart be heterosexual and Republican?

#### Piece of the Rock

Rock Hudson was a lot smarter than people ever gave him credit for, but butch he was not. Hudson will be the subject of an A&E *Biography* Sunday night. This episode may leave fans running for the showers. Just when you thought no more warts (venereal or otherwise) could be uncovered about the legendary screen swish, A&E got all his old friends (by which we mean the ones he was no longer speaking to at the time of his death) to malign the dead. The only loan missing from this bin is Boze Hadleigh; perhaps even A&E didn't believe his most recent *Tales from the Ouija Board of My Life* raconteuring.

*Biography* is worth watching for previously unseen clips of Hudson at his finest, as well as for some intriguing tidbits about the queer closet in Hollywood. But having written a bio of Hudson ourselves (multitalented as we are), we wish more had been said of how complex a man — and actor — he was, and how the studio system failed him by refusing to let him act in anything but fluff. (*Typecast* despite the closet.) If you disbelief us, rent John Frankenheimer's *Seconds* to witness a brilliant performance.

Kudos to *Politically Incorrect* citizen panelist Donald Carter — an African American from Philadelphia — for having the guts to make a link between black civil rights and queer civil rights and to stand up for queers as the last minority group it is okay to hate.

Finally, *Nightline's* continuing series, *America in Black & White*, has addressed important race issues, none more powerfully than this past week as the nation watched the trial and conviction of John King in Jasper, Texas for the hideously brutal dragging death of James Byrd, Jr. This is ABC News at its best: taking on real issues in a tough, no-nonsense manner. *Nightline* did the same the previous week when it aired, over several nights, a British documentary on so-called "honor killings" — hideous murders by family members of women in Islamic countries for alleged sexual transgressions. Episodes such as these are used as educational tools in high schools and colleges; this is TV at its most compelling and insightful, this is real journalism.

Now we'd like to see *Nightline* take on *America: Queer & Straight*. Thus far ABC News has been the only national newscast to report on the hate crime against Adam Coulton, the 17-year-old Marin County boy who was assaulted a few weeks ago. Apparently it remains impossible in our fractionalized society to link one form of hate to another. It's good to see ABC is able to do so. Perhaps the other networks (hello, Fox?) will follow suit. ▼

# The cookie monster

## Edmund White's remembrance of Proust

by Timothy Pfaff

was a very good homosexual today," a critic friend once told me by way of explaining why he skipped the Gay Freedom Day parade. "I stayed home and read Proust."

That was nearly a decade ago, and it's tempting to wonder what percentage of today's readers — of the B.A.R., not, God forbid, Proust — know who Proust was, know he was gay, know he was gay and a tad important, have read even a portion of *In Search of Lost Time*, plan to — or care. Edmund White's *Marcel Proust* (Viking, \$19.95) seems like a stich in time. This short — a mere 156 pages of text, plus bibliography — erudite yet hugely readable monograph is sure to win more readers for the author of what White, no mean novelist himself, deems our century's greatest novel.

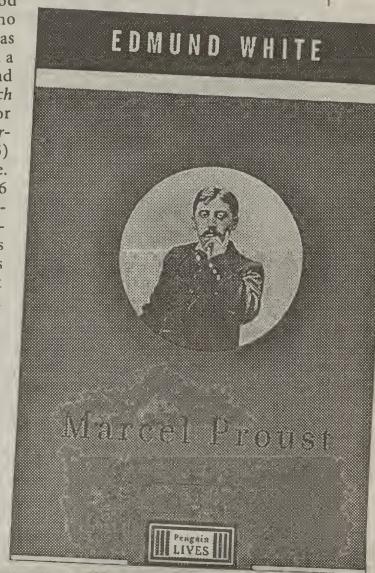
*Marcel Proust*, along with Larry McMurtry's *Crazy Horse*, inaugurates a new "Penguin Lives" series. That pairing of first subjects, as different as people could be, makes one wonder if Viking is attempting to represent the full range of Homo Sapiens, but at least there can be no doubt that the subspecies of homosexuals will get a showing.

White has already come in for some critical drubbing for weighing in too heavily on his subject's sexual proclivities. While one might well wonder at his lengthy conjecture about what got Proust off — voyeurism, masturbation and the defiling of photographs of family members, he speculates, in one of his rare departures from the already vast canon of verifiable facts — his deep understanding of varieties of homosexual experience, particularly in the France of Proust's day, adds immeasurably to our understanding of the sexually tormented writer and the myriad ways his own sexual experiences are translated into the exotic narrative of *In Search of Lost Time*. In particular, White's clarification of Proust's transmogrification of his lovers and unrequited sexual obsessions into female characters is, to say the least, helpful to readers of the novel — most of whom are already up against the portrayal of a society from which their own lives and experience are at a nearly unfathomable remove.

An authority in his own right — and from his own unique, and uniquely gay, perspective — on French culture and literature, White contributes to the already vast secondary literature on Proust a *New Grove Dictionary*-like "life and works." Although he is sensible about drawing direct connections between those two aspects of his subject, he also makes plain how, for this particular genius, the story breaks down, roughly, to life, then works. After infiltrating himself into echelons of French society to which his upper-middle-class birth alone would not have allowed him access, through charm, wit and sheer personal brilliance — it was fascinating news to me that

Proust not only attended the riot-torn Paris premiere of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* but also had dinner afterwards with Diaghilev and Nijinsky — Proust largely (but not entirely) withdrew from that ultimately unfulfilling tumult to recast it into a saga of psychological depth unequalled before or since.

White narrates Proust's affairs — from the two-year ro-



mance with the composer Reynaldo Hahn to the preposterous and ultimately disastrous (for both men) obsession with his late-life chauffeur, Alfred Agostinelli (and others before and after those great "loves") — with a novelist's flair for depicting this truly exotic aviary, and with a philosopher's compassion. Descriptions of the dandyism and desperation may leave the unwary reader slack-jawed, but none of them begs scorn for a man whose faults (particularly uncommon generosity) were virtues carried to nearly unimaginable extremes, and who forged from the ore of his experience a feast of imagination of the rarest, most enduring metal.

White leaves no doubt that anyone who came within hailing distance of Proust knew he was gay. He explains his subject's attitude about his sexuality in a characteristically direct and simple sentence: "At the same time Proust was eager to make love to other young men, he was equally determined to avoid the label 'homosexual.'" (White is also at pains to point out how common an attitude this was in France until very recently.)

White's chronicle of Proust's denials is both fascinating and, finally, touching. His account of the series of duels in which Proust engaged to defend himself is simply flabbergasting. (There's an opera here, Eugene Onegin meets Jules Massenet, for a Thomas Ades or Jake Heggie.) My own favorite (and in a more immediate sense, Proust's) involves the 19-year-old Marcel Plantevignes, who became one of Proust's many confidantes and was warned about the novelist's "special morals." Though Plantevignes was neither surprised nor bothered by the "revelation," Proust challenged his fa-

ther to a duel over the imagined impugning of his reputation. When the young man later told Proust, "That's what everyone's whispering on the promenade," White writes, "A stunned, pale Proust absorbed the news, then finally stated sarcastically, 'How charming to arrive somewhere preceded by one's reputation.'"

Like no other writer of our century, Proust still arrives preceded by his reputation. Casual readers are relieved to discover that the famous memory-triggering madeleine "incident" occurs early in the massive novel — and seldom venture further into its thicket. Fortunately, White goes beyond the facts about his subject and his work to make an assessment of Proust's achievement, one that seems both just and positively inviting to a new generation of readers.

"Proust may be more available to readers today ... because as his life recedes in time and his period goes out of focus, he is read more as a ... maker of myths than the valedictorian of the Belle Époque. Under this new dispensation, Proust emerges as the supreme symphonist of the spirit... We read his fables of caste and lust, of family virtue and social vice, of the deprivations of jealousy and the consolations of art not as reports but as fairy tales. He is our Scheherazade."

"No matter how strange Proust's life might have been," White writes, "it has been subsumed, as he hoped, into the radiant vision of it that he presented in his writing." White's slender, gripping book sent me tearing back to the labyrinth of *In Search of Lost Time*. ▼

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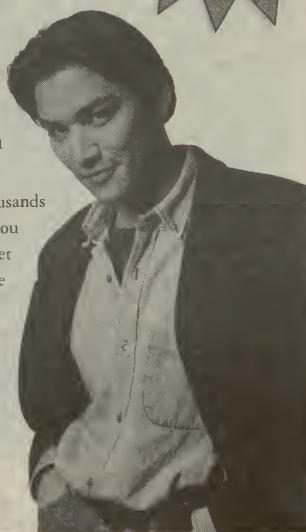
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# Imagine this

## An interview with Lydia Stux

by Gregg Shapiro

With *Imagine That: Letters from Russell* (Lambda Publications), Lydia Stux makes public her almost twenty-year correspondence with her friend Russell Denver Harold. From their meeting in their native Ohio through their lives in other cities (Russell in San Francisco, Lydia in Chicago), they formed a powerful bond through letter-writing over the course of their friendship. Russell's letters have a particularly grim power, since he was writing them from his firsthand experiences at ground zero of the epidemic.

Gregg Shapiro: Stephen McCauley's *The Object of My Affection* was one of the first books to examine the relationship between a gay man and a straight woman, but McCauley is a gay man. With *Letters To Russell*, you join the ranks of Ann Patchett (*The Magician's Assistant*) and Jane Hamilton (*The Short History of A Prince*) as a straight woman exploring the relationship between yourself and a gay man via the literary experience. You are bringing to the page this thing that has existed for a long time, but is only now making it to the page.

Lydia Stux: I think that the phenomenon is so old. The first time I ever went to a gay bar was 1976, on my eighteenth birthday, when you were allowed to drink legally at that age. You were carded and went in the back door. When Russell took me out, it was to a bar full of gay men and a few women that were friends who came along.

You could dance and drink and have a good time with your friends and "boogie" and "disco inferno." Now it must be so mainstream ... look, there's a sitcom, *Will & Grace*. If there's a sitcom, you know it's reached mainstream America.

Every gay man knows a straight girl he can dance with at the club. If he's tired of

ground.

Living in San Francisco appears to have politicized Russell. He began by attending a No Nukes rally and then became active in both the gay rights and AIDS-activism movements. Do you think it happened because he was living in San Francisco?

I think that had a lot to do with San Francisco. I see that now, all these years later, that it took a great amount of courage to be 21 and out and proud in Akron, Ohio in the early '70s. I think he kind of came home to San Francisco and found his like-minded people. Yes, they care about the environment, yes they care about reproductive rights, all the things that had concerned him. Whereas Akron was kind of a backwater for political action.

Russell reveals his AIDS diagnosis to you in a letter from July 1986, and in a letter dated October 1986, Russell writes that you mention, as he puts it, "the subject." You must have been having a hard time coming to terms with his revelation.

I think I really did deny it for a long time. I mean, I should have known better. For a while, I began to lose several friends to AIDS. But there was something very upbeat about his letters, where he would be ill and he wouldn't write for a while, and then he'd get better and he'd write and say, "I was sick, blah blah blah." He was so determined to beat it back. I think I wanted to believe that he was going to beat it back.

next page ▶



dancing with the guys, he's got a girl who'd be happy to dance with him. She's dancing like she's never danced before because gay men know how to dance, no-one's hitting on her, and she's having a great time. It's old news to us, but having it described by straight women is kind of a new take on an old story.

I guess I'm glad to be breaking

## REVIEW

# Signed, sealed, delivered

by Jim Nawrocki

*Imagine That: Letters from Russell*, edited by Lydia Stux; Lambda Publications, \$12

In this age of voice mail and e-mail, it's become almost a cliché to lament the "lost art of letterwriting." E-mail is often praised as a hipper, more convenient version of letterwriting, and e-mail proponents sometimes use the mildly derisive phrase "snail mail" to refer to the act of putting words down on paper and into an envelope. But it's hard to imagine the handwritten letter ending up in the dustbin of history, and it's difficult to imagine e-mail replacing letters completely. E-mail is ephemeral: consumed quickly and usually deleted soon after. The handwritten letter is, of course, a completely different experience. One opens it, holds it, reads and usually re-reads it. As a result, the message in the letter tends to be more meditative, more personal. And letters have staying power. They can turn up decades later, yellowing but still intact, to deliver their message to those curious about the past.

It's worth making these distinctions with respect to gay and lesbian history and literature, because personal writings such as letters and journals have become an important way for us to tap into and preserve our collective past. Personal letters are some of the best repositories of history. They bear honest, relatively spontaneous and usually vivid descriptions of the events that become important to remembering who we are and where we came from. Letters can offer an extremely valuable window to the "everyday" past, serving as detailed portraits of a given time and place. Such is the case with *Imagine That*, a collection of letters recently published by Lambda Publications. The personal correspondence that makes up *Imagine That* is between Russell Denver Harold, a gay man living in San Francisco from 1979 to 1994, and his friend Lydia Stux, a straight woman living in the Midwest.

It's no slight to say that there's nothing all that remarkable about what Russell has to say. His letters present a portrait of a gay man moving to San Francisco from Ohio in the late 1970s, pursuing life, love, and a career as a writer. Because Russell's letters span such a long period, we get to witness his growth as a person, his struggles with his career and relationships, and his transition from Midwestern transplant to citizen of San Francisco. In the sense that Russell is a kind of gay "Everyman," the letters make for interesting reading.

### Dark ages

Russell's letters begin in the age before AIDS, but as time goes on the disease soon rears its head in the letters. Ominous health problems mentioned in some of the earlier letters hint at what's to come. By the time of Russell's death in 1994, he's chronicled much of his battle with AIDS in his letters to Lydia. He faces the disease, initially, with the fear and uncertainty that one would expect from anyone confronting the illness. And reading these letters, from the perspective of 1999, is often darkly nostalgic, and sometimes even heartbreaking. In one letter, for example, Russell cannot contain his hope as he describes some of the new AIDS "miracle cures" he has heard about. In another letter, he presents an extended description of an AIDS protest and the subsequent concentration camp-like detention of demonstrators by the San Francisco Police.

As much as *Imagine That* is a portrait of one man's experience of San Francisco in the '80s and early '90s, it is also the portrait of a friendship that is clearly tested by time and distance. At one point, Russell comes to the realization that his friendship with Stux has changed, unavoidably and permanently. "I think that we are two very different people now," he writes to Stux in a 1986 letter. "I know that we exist in two very different worlds, desire two very different futures. I am not angry or anything like that... I think that what I am trying to say is that it is a natural process. We address each other for the joy of communicating, not because we have a past together."

Even though the book does not include any of Stux's responses to her friend's letters, Russell conveys almost enough about them in his own letters to fill in some of the blanks. But not all of them. There are times when selected quotes from Stux's letters might have been illuminating. These are not included, presumably for reasons of space. Because the letters cover such a long period, and involve very personal information, there are times when the transitions between letters are a bit jarring. Some of these gaps in the chronology might have been smoothed over with the addition of biographical summaries or even footnotes. Still, the letters of Russell Denver Harold present a personal and poignant portrait of a small but important piece of gay history. ▶

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# Short shorts

by Deborah Peifer

*The Lowest Blue Flame Before Nothing* by Lara Stapleton; Aunt Lute, \$10.95

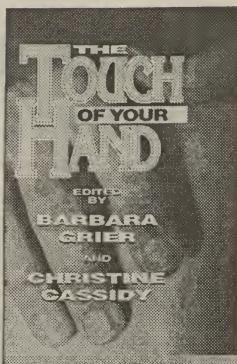
*Friday the Rabbi Wore Lace: Jewish Lesbian Erotica* edited by Karen X. Tulchinsky; Cleis, \$14.95

*The Touch of Your Hand* edited by Barbara Grier and Christine Cassidy; Naiad, \$14.95

Good short fiction is harder to write than practically anything, I suspect, because there is no room for error, for misstep, for careless phrasing. Every word has to count for

everything. When short fiction works, it provides an extraordinary reading experience. When it doesn't... well, I'll get to that later.

*The Lowest Blue Flame Before Nothing* is Lara Stapleton's first published collection, a surprising fact considering the breathtaking skill with which she creates characters, stories, lives. Her skill with language indicates a writer of far greater experience than her résumé suggests. Consider the opening paragraph of "The Middle of October": "Carl moved in approximations, near misses. He knocked things, fumbled. His skin was lightly blemished. He spoke at an angle toward his shirt. He was a teenager, decidedly awkward. This wasn't the only problem." In these few words we learn so much about Carl, probably more than he knows about himself.

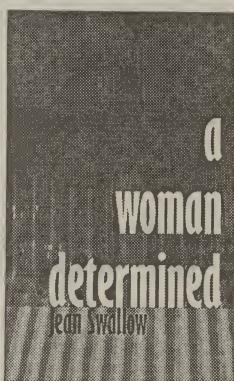


In each of the fine stories in this collection, Stapleton takes ordinary lives and digs deep for the angst below the surface, the pain decidedly unexamined, and invites us to consider the value of these lives. This is writing to savor, and I suspect *The Lowest Blue Flame* is a book I will reread with pleasure.

Karen X. Tulchinsky has become an editor to watch out for. Her latest collection of short fiction reflects a broad range of very fine stories as well as excerpts from longer works, all of which go to show that sexuality and religion can mix somewhere other than the confessional. Don't skip Tulchinsky's introduction in your rush to get to hot stuff. She has interesting things to say about religion and culture and sex that help to position the tales socially and personally. Leslea Newman's "A Religious Experience" is the remarkably erotic story of a butch who flips herself on Yom Kippur and manages to involve her absent lover while she does it. Newman creates complex characters in a

few superbly chosen words; the erotic content is so hot that this story should come (pun intended) with oven mitts. The selections from *The Escape Artist* and *Love Ruins Everything* read as complete in themselves, even as they make you long to read the novels in their entirety. Karen Tulchinsky's name as editor has become a guarantee of quality. *Friday the Rabbi Wore Lace* will have you gasping with pleasure — a one-handed delight, with extras.

The latest collection of short fiction by Naiad Press authors, *The Touch of Your Hand*, is a real disappointment, especially after the promise of the first few annual editions. Perhaps these writers have run out of inspiration; not one story made me glad that I'd read it. The writing is flat, the plotting pallid, the effort pointless for writer and reader alike. Perhaps it's time for Naiad to take a break from these collections, at least until they have a book's worth of stories to print. ▼



the interviews will ring painfully true.

The writing in this novel is superb. Swallow's economy of language is brilliant. Late in the novel, Margaret mentions her true love, Kore, the woman for whom she claims perfect devotion, and says, "I know Kore stayed with me the whole time, at least she told me that she did." That automatic distrust is painful to observe, and it tells us volumes about how this woman now sees the world. Laura's description of the vibrant, vivacious, powerful pre-accident Margaret is shocking because the post-accident Margaret we've already met is so petty, bitter, and powerless. *A Woman Determined* is an astonishing novel. Don't miss it. ▼



## After the accident

by Deborah Peifer

*A Woman Determined* by Jean Swallow; Spinster, \$10.95

We should be used to loss by now, after twenty years of the plague, but somehow the loss of Jean Swallow by her own hand is harder to accept. Her final novel, published posthumously by Spinster, is extraordinary, and I hate like hell that I can't tell her that myself. What a writer Swallow was, and how deeply she understood our communities. *A Woman Determined* is a character study of two women forever changed by one accident. It is powerful, frightening, unforgettable.

The book is structured as a series of 20 paired interviews. An unnamed, virtually invisible narrator questions Margaret Donovan and Laura Gilbert about Margaret's decision to leave the women's clinic she helped to found, and the effects on Margaret's life of a devastating car accident and her subsequent lawsuit against the driver of the car. Laura was Margaret's lawyer for most of the lawsuit. Slim pickings for a novel, you might think, but in the course of the interviews we learn not only about the two women, but also about the lesbian community in which they live. If you've ever been involved in dyke politics, and the drama and blood-letting that so often occur,

The way e-mail is, you can just send jokes, you can get a one-sentence little thing. I think that would have appealed to him so much. In fact, in the book, there is one day when he mailed three different postcards at different times during the day. Each one has just a sentence or two, and that's his sense of playfulness. I could see logging on and "You've got mail," and there's a joke, a sentence, a tirade. I'm sorry not to have that.

One of the most powerful passages in Russell's letters is when he details the visit to San Francisco made by the fundamentalist Christian mother of William, his longtime on-again/off-again lover. Do you have any contact with William?

Yeah, I do. He's healthy. Things are going well for him.

Is he still in San Francisco?

Yes. But he's come a long way, too, and he's grieving, and I need to respect his privacy and his story, because he's still alive.

Does he know about the book?

Yeah, he got a copy. And he's delighted, on Russell's behalf. ▼

## Lydia Stux

◀ previous page

His health always seemed to be pretty precarious. When the letters began in 1979, he was always sick.

And by 1983, he was already having health problems. When I decided to do the book, and I was reading for the first time all those books about AIDS, they just made me weep. That it was there, I couldn't bear to believe it. Who knew? A college friend died in '83. People were just beginning to hear about it in Chicago. But then looking back, I was like, What on earth were we thinking? The man's wasting away, dragging himself through graduate school, and coming down with pneumonia. Russell was having blood clots and all these things that, surely if we heard about them now, we'd go, "Okay, we know what this is."

What do you think Russell would think of the e-mail revolution?

I wish he could have been around for it. I got online in 1995, and I think we'd be talking every week.

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**HOTMEN**

# Rants and tender moments

## Justin Chin's 'Mongrel'

by John F. Karr

Justin Chin has been active on the local arts scene for several years. He's best known for his disarming, right-on rants, which are as surprising in print as they are in his live performances. One particularly sassy rant is included in the new *Best American Gay Fiction* collection, while other poems have been previously collected in *Bite Hard*, published by Manic D. Press. Fans of these rants will be excited to see Chin's career blooming with the publication by a big-time New York company of his first collection of essays, *Mongrel* (St. Martin's Press, \$11.95).

*Mongrel* is subtitled "Essays, Diatribes and Pranks," and, as the title indicates, the volume does have its fair share of mischievous moments. Yet those expecting the caustic firecrackers of Chin's rants may be disappointed with *Mongrel's* somewhat calmer contents. Nevertheless, these pieces still have the rants' worth, and most of

the time, their immediacy.

The volume collects Chin's journalistic pieces and his budding efforts as an essayist. Several of the most successful pieces are memoirs, recalling the traditions of his family, or recounting his return as an adult to the scene of his adolescent coming out. A first-person tone of address runs throughout the book, connecting all the selections.

A few of the pieces may be apprentice journalism, like the exposé in "Saved" of the Christian ministry Exodus International, which promises to convert gays to heterosexuality, or "Smile," an account of the gay prostitution business in Thailand. Deprived of the energy and high spirit of the more personal pieces, these straightforward efforts may seem a little dry. But they are informative, and, like all of Chin's work, are notable for the simple clarity of his writing. His uncluttered syntax ensures smooth reading and appreciable understanding.

Despite the fact that Chin models himself an ACT-UP baby

and fondly recalls the political acts that informed his college-age years during the '80s, his best work comes not from that defiant stance, but during the calmer reflections that time and age provide. In "Q-Punk Grammar," for instance, finding himself burdened by the accumulated legacy of gay history, he disposes of its claims to find the individual moment that is his, and by extension, every gay man's. It's beautiful.

His remembrances of his traditional Asian family life are most tender, and he's at his fascinating best in exploring how those meaningful traditions may be incorporated and continued in the life of a Queer Nation tattooed punkish guy. His attempts in daily life to, as he writes, "negotiate the spaces between disclosure and

safety" inform his work with urgency and meaning even for those who do not share his personal ID. His grasp on being an "ethnic" in America is always intriguing — sentimental on the personal front, and scabrous on a societal scale, as when he writes about the fad for Eastern, especially Tibetan religions in "Attack of the White Buddhists." His take on this "Lamapalooza" is hilarious.

*Mongrel* is an auspicious first collection for the young writer. It left me eager for more. ▼

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from a queer (and you know they don't use that word in gay solidarity) upbringing. Lily is forced to grieve for her lover even as she fights to save her daughter from a fate worse than death, a life in the talons of the religious wrong. What could make more sense

than a marriage of convenience to Ben? Especially when it turns out that Ben's parents are wealthy and politically connected. Surely living a big lie is small enough sacrifice to save a child?

Watts' characters have plenty to say about the closet and the grotesque way that the law can be used to destroy families that don't meet the Republican standard, but her characters don't lecture, and neither does she. Throughout the novel, Watts uses wit and irony and honest sentiment to explore the feelings and foibles of her characters. The farcical elements involved in Lily's transformation from dyke o' death to Southern matron are handled exceptionally well, and are handled with realism and a great deal of fun. *WBB* is an entertaining read with lots of laughs and plenty of heart. If it also makes you think long and hard about the politics of hate, well, I'm sure that's OK, too. ▼

## FILM

### Two to tango



As far as we know, there's no same-sex angle to *Tango*, veteran Spanish director Carlos Saura's new film on the Argentinean dance art form. However, there is this publicity photo, in which ballet star Julio Bocca (left), playing himself, apparently gives Carlos Rivarola, as Ernesto Landi, a few lessons in dancing like a man. The film required the talents of a number of hot tango dancers, musicians, Italian cinematographer Vittorio Storaro, composer Lalo Schifrin (*Mission: Impossible*), and others. Opens Friday, March 5 at the Embarcadero Cinemas. ▼

# True confessions

by Jim Nawrocki

*Friends and Apostles: The Correspondence of Rupert Brooke and James Strachey, 1905-1914*, edited by Keith Hale; Yale University Press

In some ways, it's amazing that Edwardian poet Rupert Brooke (1887-1915) is famous at all. When one considers the luminaries he moved among as an associate of the Bloomsbury group, it's a wonder young Brooke wasn't eclipsed. His list of friends and acquaintances reads like a Who's Who of early twentieth-century British literature. His circle included the likes of Virginia Woolf, E.M. Forster, D.H. Lawrence, H.G. Wells, Vita Sackville-West, Lytton Strachey, and the American, Henry James. Also among the crowd were the famed economist John Maynard Keynes, and the equally famous philosopher Bertrand Russell ... to name just a few.

So how did Brooke manage to hold his own? To borrow a phrase from the late twentieth-century book of celebrity, Brooke was a kind of literary "heartthrob."

Blessed with extraordinary good looks, he was lusted after by many, men as well as women. In addition to being a gifted poet, Brooke had the luck (for the sake of posterity, at least) of dying young and "heroically." It didn't matter that his death (a result of blood poisoning) did not occur on the field of battle. His reputation as a youthful, romantic poet who died as a soldier helped fuel the myth of Rupert Brooke. When Winston Churchill, another acquaintance, lionized Brooke shortly after the poet's death, Brooke's status as a hero was all but secured.

Brooke's literary reputation, resting as it does on his relatively small body of work, has admittedly been helped along by the enduring memory of his legendary good looks and the extensive circle of famous writers who survived him. Lost in the myth-making, however, was the story of Brooke's homosexual love affairs. While Brooke's relationships with women were well-known, his love affairs with men were not, and the executors of Brooke's estate did what they could to keep it that way.

For decades, many of Brooke's

letters and other papers were unavailable to the public, and they remained unpublished. With the publication of *Friends and Apostles: The Correspondence of Rupert Brooke and James Strachey*, a large chunk of Brooke's personal correspondence finally comes out into the open. Admirably edited by Keith Hale, *Friends and Apostles* is a revealing, honest and dramatic chronicle of some of the friendships that flourished in that august gathering known as Bloomsbury.

## Drama queens

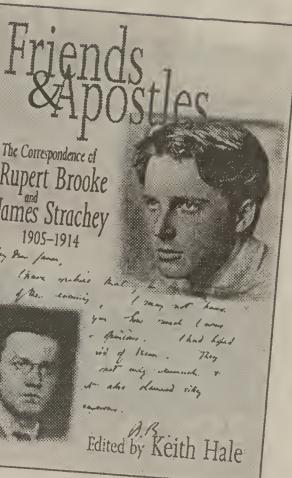
*Friends and Apostles* is as much the story of Bloomsbury as it is of the evolving friendship between the two young men. The readers of Brooke and Strachey's letters are presented with a detailed, honest and rich portrait of the Bloomsbury milieu. They are permitted a glimpse of its most mundane details, and of the grand and often comical dramas of these talented, intense and sometimes disturbed people. The letters are also the portrait of a love affair, of Strachey's longing for attachment (physical and otherwise) with the gloriously charismatic Brooke, and of Brooke's ongoing examination of his sexuality and his place in the world.

The sexual adventures of Brooke, Strachey and their friends are at times astonishing. It's no exaggeration to say that the exclusive Cambridge club they both belonged to, known as "the Apostles," was a kind of unofficial

homosexual dating club. Though the group included some of the greatest minds of that generation, new members were often recruited as much for their looks as for their ideas. And at one time or another, every one of the Apostles seems to have slept with most of the other members, or so it seems.

There is much powerful and even shocking writing in *Friends and Apostles*. In one extensive letter, for example, Strachey describes to Brooke, in great detail, an impromptu *menage a trois* involving two of their male friends and a woman who takes them both on at once, first watching the males make love, and then inserting herself between them in an attempt to acquaint them with the pleasures of heterosexual love. In several other letters, Brooke more or less confesses to pedophile tendencies. In one, written during his brief stint as headmaster at a boys' school, he lustfully describes to Strachey one of the youths under his care.

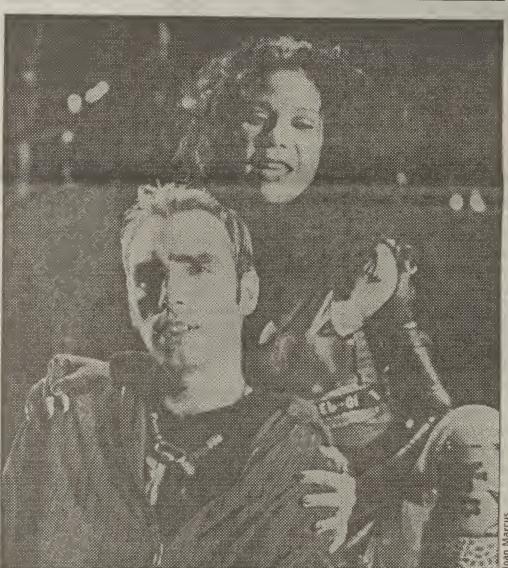
Hale presents the Brooke-Strachey letters in seven chronologically arranged sections, each one including an introduction that sets the scene with historical and biographical background. Hale's footnotes to these letters consti-



Edited by Keith Hale

tute something of an achievement in themselves. He helpfully identifies all of the key players and minor figures who appear in the correspondence, sometimes quoting from other letters relevant to the Brooke-Strachey exchange. He also quotes, extensively, from Brooke's poems and other works, shedding light on their genesis and composition. Also included are some of the whimsical drawings and cartoons that Brooke and Strachey often included in their letters to each other.

For those who already have an interest in Brooke's work, or in Bloomsbury in general, *Friends and Apostles* is not to be missed. For those unfamiliar with either, the book is an excellent introduction, since Hale's notes fill in many of the gaps. ▼



Dean Balkwill and Daphne Rubin-Vega in a scene from *Rent*

## Rent

◀ page 37

producer."

At the University of Michigan, this self-described sexual late bloomer with self-esteem problems began to sort out his sexuality. "My first boyfriend was my college roommate, and we were together for five years," Seller said. "I thought to myself, 'I love this man more than anyone I know, and if he's a boy, he's a boy.'"

Heading to New York after college, he found various jobs in the theatrical publicity and booking, none of which made him happy. It was at another synagogue, this one in Manhattan, that he had a theatrical epiphany. He was directing and producing shows for the temple's theater program when he commissioned a friend to write a musical, and convinced the temple to produce it. "I realized then," he said, "that I was a great producer and only a so-so director."

The Tony Award he received for

*Rent* sits on a shelf behind his desk. The award also brought him another sort of prize, when he got a congratulatory call from an employee of the company that owns the Nederlander Theatre. It was Lehrer, and within days they were coupled in the relationship that continues today. "I never got a chance to take advantage of my power and position," he said with a grin.

Professionally, Larson has been coupled with business partner Kevin McCollum from their *Rent* days when they were booking other people's shows into theaters around the country. That McCollum is straight just helps make their company "more well-rounded," Seller said.

"You know, this is one of the lucky businesses," Seller said. "Being gay in the theater business is actually an asset. You can be out and open and be embraced." ▼

*Rent* will play at the Golden Gate Theatre at least through May 9. Tickets are \$22-\$69.50. Call 512-7770.

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# OUT & ABOUT

## Calendare

by Mark Mardon



To Add One Meter to an Unknown Mountain, by Zhang Huan.

## Queer China

While mainstream art critics have fussed over *Inside Out*, the stunning new joint exhibition of modern Chinese art at the SFMOMA and the Asian Art Museum, a queer take on the show has been slow in coming. Let us now rectify that situation.

As expected in an exhibit spanning a decade of art created during tumultuous times in mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and abroad, several of the works reflect a queer sensibility, at least when approached from a Western, queer perspective.

Whether any of the artists identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender is unclear; merely raising the question requires sorting through complex issues of sexual identity and expression in diverse non-Western cultures. (Local performance artist and writer **Justin Chin** may shed light on the matter, on March 14 at the Asian Art Museum, when he delivers "Advice for Tragic Queens at Home and Abroad.")

But for the average queer San Franciscan viewing the show, much on display triggers familiar gut instincts.

What, for instance, is going on in **Zhang Huan**'s performance-art videos, shot in Beijing East Village, where a group of men slowly strip on a hilltop, then pile on top of one another? More queer still is fellow East Villager **Ma Li-um**, who employs exquisite androgyny to make a statement, in one case walking naked in a public space, his exotic "feminine" appearance a stark contrast to the clothed men around him.

Guest curator **Gao Minglu** explains, in the exhibit catalog, that Zhang and Ma were members of an art colony there, until it was driven underground by police; it was possible to address "issues of sexuality, gender, and personal suffering."

Then there's Taiwanese painter **Hou Chun-ming**'s "New Paradise," a series of panels that simultaneously accost and captivate the viewer with fantastical bold figures, penises wagging out of vaginas, being snipped by scissors, depicting the mythology of "woman" violently separating herself from the original hermaphroditic human.

For sheer homoerotic thrill, nothing beats Taiwanese expatriate **Shumin Lin**'s "The Conqueror," a holograph depicting a well-endowed Caucasian man stretched out head-to-toe next to another man (or a duplicate of himself; one can't be sure).

Granted, the bulk of *Inside Out* is not particularly queer; queerness, though, certainly does shine through in some of the particulars. ▼

**Inside Out: New Chinese Art** runs through June 1, 1999 at the SF Museum of Modern Art and the Asian Art Museum. For information, phone 357-4000 (SFMOMA) or 379-8801 (Asian Art Museum).

## Eri

### Belcher Studios Gallery

Opening reception: "Horror Show part 2: modern grotesques," an exploration into contemporary themes of the horrific, notably the "horror" around the timeless battle of Man vs. the Body. Featuring artists Timothy Cummings, Lynda Mahan, Paul Rowley, and Jim Winters. Included in the exhibit will video, photography, collage, painting, and screen printing, plus installation by David Phillips and Paul Rowley and performance by Kirk Maxson. Free. 6-9pm. 69 Belcher St. (btwn. 14th & Duboce, near Market St. Safeway). Info: 487-1274.

**Grasshopper Palace** "One Testicle in the Grave" (or "Joe and Hank's Midlife Crises"), a comedy cabaret starring Joe Cunningham and Hank Hyena (plus Carol LeMaire) in 16 vignettes about male mid-life crises, with songs, skits, slide shows, costumes and masks. Songs include: "Germ in My Sperm," "Side Effects," "1977 Was Fun," "Let's Play Decay," and "The Agony of Contact Lenses." \$7. 8pm. Weekends thru 3/13. 333 Valencia St., Room 450. Reservations: 643-8118, ext. 4.

### The LAB

Third Annual Fixed Price Art Sale. More than 150 artists have donated works. Most will be priced at \$50, \$100, and \$150. Doors open at 6pm; sale begins 7pm. A live auction of a dozen works will commence at 8pm. Musicians Beth Custer and Miya Masakawa will perform, and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence will be on hand. \$5 admission (includes refreshments). The sale continues Sat. & Sun., March 6 & 7, noon-5pm each day. 2948 16th St. (at Capp). Info: 864-8855.

### ATA Gallery

Screening of "The Catch," a comedic look at queers, beers, football, and butt-slapping. A heterosexual group of football jocks and their trophy girlfriends confront a queer group of picnickers one sunny summer day in Golden Gate Park. Based on a true story. The new short film from Heidi Ellis (*Bike Messenger*) will screen continuously all night. Free food and no-host bar. \$5. 8-11pm. Artists' Television Access, 992 Valencia St.

### Theatre Rhinoceros

Held over: Ronnie Larsen's *10 Naked Men*, a comedy about prostitution in Hollywood. \$20-\$25. 5pm & 8pm (Sun. @ 3pm & 7pm). Thru 3/28. 2926 16th St. (near Mission). Tix: City Box Office (392-4400) or at the theatre. Info: 863-7576.

### Victoria Theatre

Final performances: "Jeff Stryker Does Hard Time." Contains nudity and sexual situations. \$30-\$40. 8 & 10pm Fri. & Sat.; 7 & 9pm Sun.). Thru 3/7. 2961 16th St. (near Mission). Tix: City Box Office (392-4400) or at the theatre. Info: 863-7576.

### Lone Star Saloon

Men of All Colors Together hold their monthly chat night. Tonight's topic: "How Deep Is Your Skin?" Second floor, 1354 Harrison St. (at 10th). Info: 675-0201.

### Zellerbach Hall, Berkeley

Cal Performances presents "Peony Pavilion" by Tang Xianzu, a masterpiece of 16th-century Chinese epic theater. Combines traditional Chinese opera, a modern score, and high-tech, multimedia sensibilities. Directed by Peter Sellars. \$32 & \$46. 7:30pm. Also on 3/6. U.C. Berkeley campus. Tix: (510) 642-9988.

### New College

Celebrate the one-year anniversary of the Webzine "Big Bridge" ([www.bigbridge.org](http://www.bigbridge.org)) with readings and an art exhibit by many of its West Coast contributors, including Justin Chin, David Meltzer, Jack Hirschman, Duncan McNaughton, Sarah Menefee, Michael Rothenberg and others. Sponsored by the Graduate Poetic Program. Free. 7:30pm. New College of California, 766 Valencia St. 437-3458.

### The Next Stage

Politically Insensitive Theatre presents "The International Jewish Conspiracy . . . Revealed!" An evening of sketch comedy written and directed by Jeff Kellner (so blame him already!). All tickets: \$10. Also playing on March 6, 12, 13, & 14. Trinity Church, 1668 Bush St. (at Gough; enter on east side of Gough, north of Bush). For information and reservations, call 664-FIRE.

### The Booksmith

Photographer Joel-Peter Witkin talks about and shows slides from his new book, *The Bone House*, a four-decade retrospective of his work. Free. 7pm. 1644 Haight St. 863-8688.

**One Rincon Center** "Casino Tropicale," an evening of roulette, craps, blackjack, entertainment, dancing, food, and refreshments, sponsored by Shanti and MAX (Men's Associated Exchange) to raise money and awareness for Shanti's Volunteer Services Program. \$20 donation. 8pm-midnight. 101 Spear St. Reservations: 674-4764.

**Edinburgh Castle** The Visitors Kimberly perform. The band, launched by queer label timmi-kat ReCoRDs, includes members of Dart, Spackle, Brown-Star, Peppercorn, and Secadura. Followed by Distructo. \$2. 9:30pm. 21+ 950 Geary St.

**Fort Mason** The Irish Arts Foundation presents the Eighth Annual San Francisco Celtic Music & Arts Festival. \$15 advance; \$20 door. Noon-5pm. Also on 3/7. Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center. Tix: 392-4400.

Joe Cunningham and Hank Hyena display a "hemorrhoid" and a "slipped disc" in their mid-life crises comedy at the Grasshopper Palace. See Friday.



Ronald Garrigues' "Endangered Species" bronze sculptures are on display at 111 Minna Street. See Tuesday.

**First Unitarian Church** Chanticleer, the acclaimed male vocal ensemble, presents "In a New Light: Exploring Music by Today's Composers." Featuring new works influenced by a range of musical styles, from madrigals to Native American chants to jazz. \$25 & \$29 reserved; \$19 general. 8pm. Also on 3/7 at 7pm. 1187 Franklin St. (at Geary). Tix: 392-4400.

### Mark I. Chester Studio

Male Figure Drawing, a special session of one-hour poses with Chip Tharsing, sponsored by photographer Mark I. Chester. Classical nude modeling. Open to sketchers of all skill levels. Relaxed home/studio setting. 1pm. 1229 Folsom St. Info: 621-6294.

### Kimo's

"Fauxgirls" first-anniversary show, featuring three different revues of female impersonators. Hosted by the Pride of the South, Savannah Lynn. Open mic drag show follows. \$8 cover (good for all three shows). Doors open 9pm; 1st show at 10pm. Kimo's Upstairs Showroom, 1351 Polk St. 885-4535.

### Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Join author Sarah Schulman at the Havdallah Service ending the Sabbath today at 7pm. Schulman's lecture is being presented as part of Women's History Month. All welcome. \$5. 290 Dolores St. (at 16th). Info: Rene Bauer, 861-6932.

### MCC

Two events: First, at 4pm, Metropolitan Community Church and the Lesbian and Gay Historical Society present author Sarah Schulman speaking on the history of the Lesbian Avengers. Second, at 7pm, "Queer Family Values" concludes its six-week series with Schulman speaking on homophobia and the family. This is a part of MCC's regular service. Both events are free and open to all. 150 Euclid St. (near 18th). 863-4434.

### Jon Sims Center

Authors Will Roscoe and Mark Thompson (Gay Spirit, Gay Soul, and Gay Body) participate in an open forum, "Gay Spirit, Past and Future," the final presentation of Queer Spirit Quest II. \$7 suggested donation. 7pm. Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, 1519 Mission St. (near S. Van Ness). Info: 563-7277.

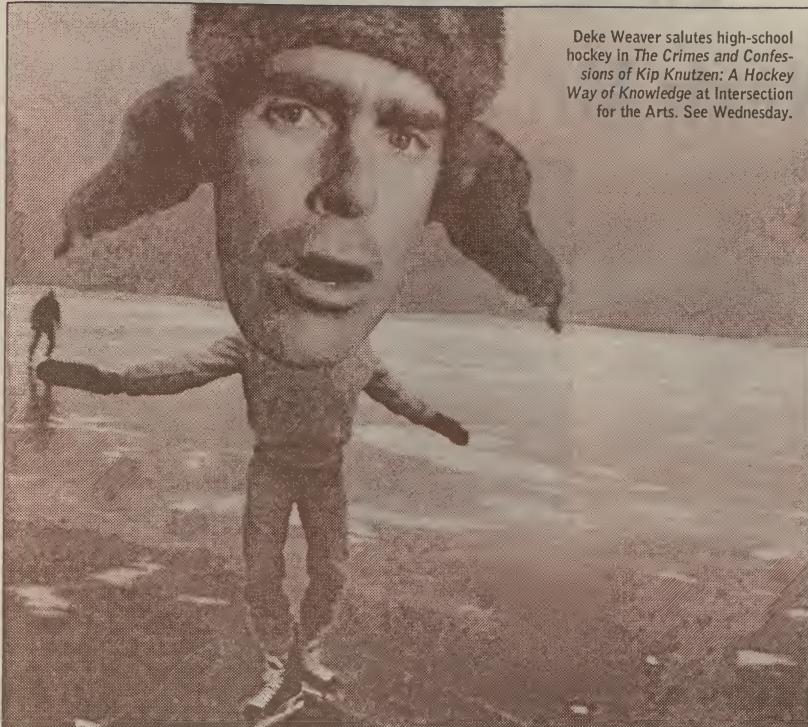
### Grace Cathedral

The spirit of India comes alive with sitar master Ranjit Makkuni in "A Prayer for the Evening." Makkuni studied under the guru Ali Akbar Khan. \$10. 5:30pm. Open seating. 1100 California St.

### Community Music Center

The Ina Chalis Opera Ensemble presents a fully-staged version of the opera *Ioalanta* by Tchaikovsky, sung in Eng-

Photo Credit



Deke Weaver salutes high-school hockey in *The Crimes and Confessions of Kip Knutzen: A Hockey Way of Knowledge* at Intersection for the Arts. See Wednesday.

lish. \$10 (\$5 seniors/children). 3pm. 544 Capp St. 826-8670.

**1015 Folsom**  
Gus presents Mass, "The Salvation Party," a T-dance ritual with DJ Phil B. of After-shock. \$15. 6pm-midnight.

**Mon**

#### Noh Space

Theatre of Yugen and Flesh & Blood Theater present "Birth-day," directed by Bob De Natale. \$8.50. 8pm. 2840 Mariposa St., at Project Artaud (btwn. Florida & Alabama streets). 621-7978.

#### Nirvana Restaurant

The Alternative Family Project/Center for Alternative Families hosts its annual award ceremony and fundraiser. Honorees for their work on behalf of families and children include Dr. Juanita Owens, Kevin Gogin, Crystal Jang, and Bob Latham. \$50. 5:30-7:30pm. 544 Castro St. Reservations: APT Events, 550-8587.

**Tue**

#### A Different Light

Carolyn Latteier reads from and discusses her new book, *Breasts: The Women's Perspective on an American Obsession*. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

#### SF Art Institute

Opening reception: "Poor Little Things," contemporary sculpture by Eric Amoy. The objects, made of such humble materials as brown craft paper and white glue, may seem clumsy at first, but just as with cloud formations, they begin to work on viewers' imaginations. Free. 5-7pm. Diego Rivera Gallery, SFAI, 800 Chestnut St. 749-4510, ext. 410.

**111 Minna St. Gallery**  
Ongoing exhibit: Ronald Garrigues' "Endangered Species," an array of highly imaginative bronze sculptures. Free. Thru 4/10. Open Tue-Fri, 1pm-late; Sat, 4pm-late. 111 Minna Street. 974-1719.

#### Noh Space

Theatre of Yugen presents Ramon Abad's "Tico Tico Puppet Theater Show," a collaboration between puppeteer Abad and various other artists in the Filipino American community and beyond. Abad, a member of Shadow-Light Productions, combines puppetry, mask, mime, and Filipino music in the show. \$10-\$12. 8pm. 2840 Mariposa St., at Project Artaud (btwn. Florida & Alabama streets). 621-7978.

#### il Teatro 450

on gay/lesbian sexuality, reads from and discusses his latest book, *Both Feet Firmly Planted in Mid-Air*, a memoir of his spiritual journey. Free. 8pm. Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eu- reka St.

#### A Different Light

Dawn Atkins and Linda Sieff read from and discuss their new book, *Lesbian Sex Scandals*. Free. 7:30pm.

#### Panic Bodies

new feature-length experimental film by Mike Hoolboom, in which the Canadian filmmaker, media theorist, and art activist con-

fronts and displays his own battle with AIDS and explores the body's various transfor-

mations in sickness and in

cinema. Preceded by his 1993 short, *Frank's Cock*. \$7

(\$3.50 students). 7:30pm. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Info: 558-8129.

#### Theatre Rhinoceros

Preview: "SBF: Single Black Female," playwright Lisa B. Thompson's rapid-fire comic exploration of the trials and tribulations of finding the right man, or woman, in an urban '90s environment. Directed by Colman Domingo. With Comik Griffen and Tia Hunnicutt. 8pm (also on 3/12; regular run starts 3/13 and goes through 4/10). 2926 16th St. (at Luna Sea, upstairs from Theatre Rhinoceros). Tix: 861-5079.

#### SFSU

Opening reception: "Queer Design Through & Through," an exploration of the Queer aesthetic in Queer driven design. Co-sponsored by the Design and Industry Dept. of SFSU and the Harvey Milk Institute. Examining Philip Carabell's Dildo Fountain, the infamous Billy Doll, Gilbert Baker's rainbow flag, logos from various queer organizations, and much more. Free. 4-7pm. Show runs thru 3/19. Room 123, Fine Arts Building, San Francisco State University, 1600 Holloway Ave. Info: 338-2211.

#### Intersection for the Arts

Deke Weaver performs in his own comedic play, "The Crimes and Confessions of Kip Knutzen: A Hockey Way of Knowledge," co-directed by Jayne Wenger and Jim Cave, with live music by composer/musician Mark Groden along with musician/actor Bob Davis. The action, set in 1978 in Devil Lakes, Minnesota, is a dark, twisted satire involving the hopes and dreams of a small-town hockey coach. \$10-\$14 sliding. 8pm (7:30pm Sundays). Thru 3/28. 446 Valencia St. (near 16th St.). 626-3311.

#### MCC

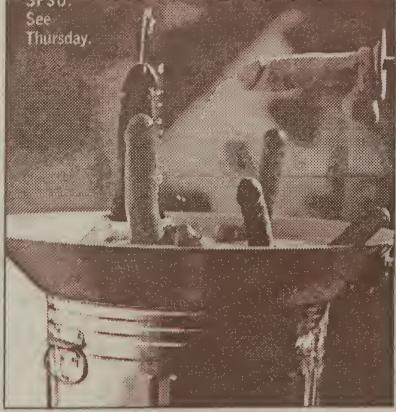
John McNeill, a Jesuit priest for nearly 40 years before being expelled for his views

#### Yerba Buena Center

SF Cinematheque presents

Philip Carabell's "Dildo Fountain" is one of the elements in "Queer Design Through & Through" at SFSU.

See Thursday.



#### A Different Light

Greg Day discusses and signs copies of his new photo book, *Metamorphose*, which depicts the men in Day's life. It documents personal triumph and transformation in the face of AIDS. Free. 7:30pm.

#### WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

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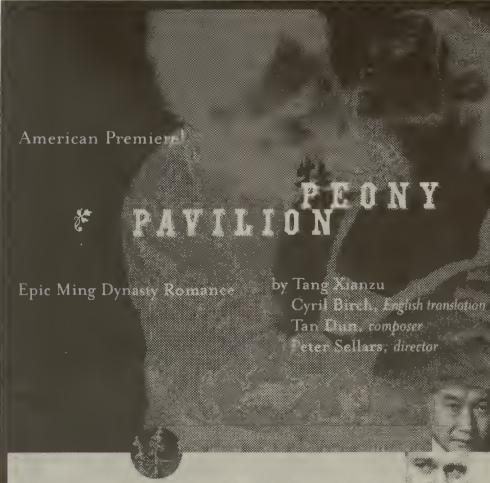
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# Next: Mr. SF Leather

by Mister Marcus

The heat turned up last week as the race got in gear for the Mr. San Francisco Leather '99 title.

At my deadline, the contestants thus far are: Tom Beyer (Mr. Polk St. Leather), BJ Cavnor (Mr. Powerhouse), Michael Floyd (Mr. GDI Leather), Robert Hernandez (Mr. Daddy's Leather), Glennon Sutter (sponsored by Stompers Boots) and Werner Tillinger (Mr. Edge Leather). The 7th contestant will be chosen on Friday night in Marin County.

On Saturday, March 6, all seven contestants and the judges will be at the Meet & Greet beer bust at Daddy's. On Sunday afternoon, the pre-judging interviews take place at an undisclosed location. Press passes will be disbursed at the meet & greet event only. If you're not there to get your press pass, none will be issued at the door. This is, after all, a benefit event!

Tickets for Mr. SF Leather '99 are on sale now (and going fast) at Daddy's, Auto Erotica, Mister S, and the Powerhouse. The price is \$20 in advance, or \$25 at the door. You wouldn't want to miss the great entertainment scheduled, including the fabulous opening number produced by Warren Cave, not to mention The Lollipop Guild and The Church Lady, to name only a few. Of course, the real stars of the show are the contestants!

To top it all off, International Mr. Leather Tony Mills will emcee the event, so you couldn't ask for more!

The Wicked Witch of the East (Vern Stewart) will fly in on his golden broom to present the Peter Austin Award, and the Mr. SF Leather Contest Committee will award yet another Unsung Hero Award.

Even with all this hoopla, I heard that there are already three men to compete for Mr. San Francisco Leather 2000! But for now, just be on hand Friday night, March 12 at Club Townsend for Mr. SF Leather 1999. As his last official act, Mr. SF Leather '98



they were a sight to behold!

So with the campaign and the coronation over, let's everyone say: Long live T.J. and Sheba. It looks like another good year. Fred and Alexis Miranda, you did us proud!

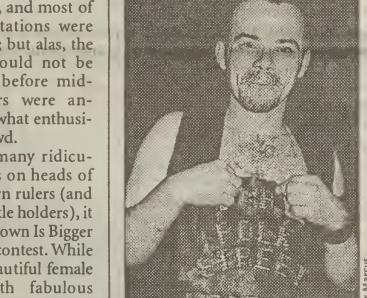
## On the edge

Earlier in the week, on Wednesday, February 24, there was a huge turnout for the Mr. Edge Leather contest. Yet only three men turned out to compete for the title: Dan Collins, Steve Mayer and Werner Tillinger. Judges Steven Byrd, Fred Lewis and Keith Truitt pumped out the questions while Donna Sachet and Gary Virginia emceed, keeping the crowd up to date. After the usual categories, the judges picked Werner Tillinger to carry the title, succeeding Steven Byrd.

The very next night, a horde descended upon the Wooden Horse bar on Polk Street for the Mr. Polk Street Leather contest, with dowager emperor Simeon doing the emcee chores. Again only three contestants: Tom Beyer, Bob Bewley and Ray Dement, who went through the usual paces. When it was all over, Tom Beyer emerged the winner. He'll compete for the Mr. SF Leather title on March 12.

So there you have it: The race is on and the judges have their work cut out for them. Regret to inform you that Leather Daddy

next page ▶



Mister Marcus  
Mr. Polk Street Leather '99 Tom Beyer represents the Wooden Horse at the Mr. SF Leather contest next week.

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Thursday, March 4

Looking for Mr. May 2000 on the millennium bare-chest calendar tonight at 2130 at the Powerhouse. Win \$100 cash & other prizes. The judges: John Brown, Donna Sachet and Brian Benamati. Should be a hoot!

Big Basket Contest at the Edge, around 2100. Win cash, prizes, and fame, and cavor with Danny Williams and The Old Bat (a.k.a. The Queen)!

Free and anonymous HIV testing at 933 Harrison (upstairs). For more info, call 863-HEAD.

Leather Daddy's Boy Todd Kepus hosts a benefit beer bust for LYRIC at Daddy's tonight for \$7, from 2000-2300, with raffles, prizes, etc.

### Weekend March 5-6

Mr. South Atlantic Leather Contest at the Full Moon Saloon in Orlando. Also: a Mr. USDA Choice contest for men over 40; leather fest by The Conquistadores/cookout, Danny Williams will emcee, and a victory dance on Sunday. Bob Graves really knows how to throw a party!

Mr. Philadelphia Leather '99 contest at the Mask & Wig Theatre (2 blocks from the Bike stop). Danny Cougherty steps aside for a successor, and a Philadelphia Boot Black will also be chosen for competition at IML in May.

### Friday, March 5

Mr. Marin Leather contest at the Lunacee Lounge

in San Rafael. Buses leave from in front of Daddy's at 1900 and hourly thereafter. See who will be the first leather title-holder in Marin County.

Boot Night at the Loading Dock, sponsored by Stompers Boots and offering free bootblacking by Driller - around 2100.

### Saturday, March 6

Meet & Greet contestants & judges for Mr. SF Leather '99 at a \$7 beerbust at Daddy's. Benefits CAN (deaf signers group)

Alameda County Leather Corps Skivvies Party at the Turf Club in Hayward, at 2100. Only \$5 if in skivvies, otherwise \$8. Billed as an outrageous underwear contest. Prizes, surprises, etc.

Boots & Buzz Cuts party at the Portland Eagle by Mr. Oregon Leather Don Hood, at 2200, to benefit Esther's Pantry, only \$4.

### Sunday, March 7

Leather Daddy's Boy Todd hosts a "A Day Out With the Dads" beerbust at Daddy's, 1600 to 1900, for only \$7, with raffles and surprises.

Eagle Softball Team beerbust at the Eagle, 1500-1800, for \$8, with food and jock fun.

Victory celebration for newly-crowned Emperor T.J. and Empress Sheba, hosted at the Edge by Mr. Edge Leather '99 Werner, with a \$6 beer bust and 50/50 raffle to benefit PosResCenter.

## PORN

# Falcon's 'French Connections' Ooo la la

by John F. Karr

While I don't generally care for plotted porn, and am easily ready to mount arguments against it, Falcon Studios has thrown me off guard with their recent two-part drama, *French Connections*. They've diverted my attention not only with a surfeit of steamy sex scenes, but also by cunningly mixing together in one film their two basic types of product: the romance and the backroom orgy.

*French Connections* is the story of an immature rich boy who attains a more adult viewpoint as he learns to shoulder responsibility. His growing insight comes from his exposure to a porn-world heart of darkness, and carries some weight as a cautionary tale: the call of street sex is strong, but indulging in its escape may also keep you from things more dear.

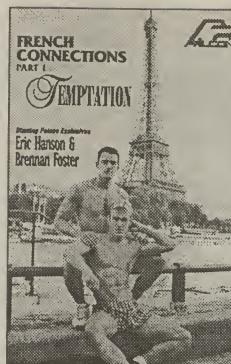
The question raised by this porno pilgrim's progress is not about our taste for a plotted story, however, but whether the sharp division in tone between the video's romantic and rougher sex scenes makes for a unified viewing experience, one that can be embraced by viewers with divergent tastes. The central and lengthiest portion of each of the video's two parts depicts in lurid detail the ominous sex clubs of Paris, where hustlers, johns, and anonymous nightcrawlers stretch their limits during forceful, sometimes frightful activity in smoky dungeon catacombs. This fisting stuff certainly isn't date night at my house; alternately, you may find the surrounding, mellow romantic scenes aren't the appropriate cues your gentleman caller needs to don a surgical glove.

Yet the quality of both varieties of scenes is incredibly high, with a fully flushed sexuality that kept me at the popping point from the start. For one thing, there's an unending succession of beauty and

big dick in *French Connections*. Star Brennan Foster may not have porndom's biggest dick, but it's among the most perfect. Even playing a spoiled child, Foster's a buoyant performer, as delightful in his personality and sunny looks as he is in his exquisitely formed penis and tightly molded ballsac. He's endearingly sexy, and professes an amazing geography of limbs that opens his groin and ass to Cinerama views of the well-delivered fucks he receives from co-stars Eric Hanson and Drew Damon. This pair, each with dark good looks and penetrating deep hazel eyes, outdo each other in slender-bodied, mammoth-dicked splendor. Yet Damon throws a more panoramic fuck in his big scene, and boy, is he ever scrumptious and studly in one haunting package.

#### Tight sets

On thing the kinkier sex club scenes share with the romantic duos is a tightness of communication between partners. I wouldn't call this dildo and fisting action romantic, but these partners demonstrate a closeness that is typically absent in this kind of group action. Among the heated succession of kinky duos, trios, and even a quintet, are some jockstrapped, cockringed, chaps-wearing, sling-riding visions that thrill with individual details: chief among them are Jared Wright and Thom Barron, a striking pairing of superdicked dudes, one cut, the other un-, both boggling the mind with the girth and projection of their cocks, not to mention the switch-hitting intensity of their assplay. Then there's the Yma Sumac-like moaning of young vixen Christopher Scott, the combat boot dangling heavily from Marine-type Matt Skyler's balls when he's fucked, or the intensely masculine beauty of newcomer Addison Scott, who's a striking slab of a man with fierce countenance, bald head and tightly-



ashed leather cockring.

In an interesting turn, even clean-cut young Foster gets in on some kink, when he tries hustling. His john is elegantly butch Buck Meadows, who delivers some heartstopping rimming to Foster's most succulent booty, preparatory to giving the lad an enema. The scene becomes exciting even for guys like me who don't usually go in for enemas, since Meadows is himself so turned on by the action, to the exhilarating point of jacking off his extreme hard-on in the explosive stream of water shooting from Foster's ass.

There are several missteps in the film's opening sequences, which jumble time and location. One simple bit of confusion arises when the star and his lover announce their decision to go to Paris, and arrive instead at a secluded country chateau. More damaging is the opening scene itself. It's either a flash-forward or a flashback, but I didn't really care to stop and think about it. I prefer porn to engage my gonads, not my skill at structural analysis. Given the sophisticated emotional progression the story charts, you'd think these narrative potholes would have been avoided.

Such slips aside, director John Rutherford has elicited a high-powered sexuality from his exciting casting, and the sensational beauty of *French Connections'* lush videography is credited to Todd Montgomery. ▼

## Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Kelly Showers had to drop out as a judge due to medical concerns, so the first ever Ms. SF Leather, Shadow Morton (now Mr. Shadow Morton), will step in as a judge, and what a sight for sore eyes! Hurry and get well, Kelly!

#### Meanwhile . . .

In far off Philadelphia last Saturday night, they staged the Philadelphia Leather Boy contest at the Bike Stop. And would you believe another leather woman won the title and will compete for American Leather Boy in Washington, D.C. in April? The winner was "JP" (no last name at my deadline) of Horsham, PA (suburb of Philly).

In Sacramento, also on Saturday night, Brian Peters won the Sacramento Leather Daddy title, with "Jackson" the 1st runner-up and "David" the 2nd runner-up, all at The Bolt in Sacto. Nice going, guys!

Our former Ms. Golden Gate Leather, Beth Downey, traveled to Los Angeles over the weekend for the Ms. Los Angeles Leather contest held at the Faultline on Saturday night, February 27, with two women vying for the title. The judging panel included IMsL.



Carl Battles earned Mr. April spot on the 2000 Bare Chest Calendar at the Powerhouse on Feb. 18.

Megan DeJarlais, Joseph Bean, Spencer Bergstedt, Glenda Rider, and Annie Romano. Sarah Humble of Baltimore was the emcee. Between play parties Friday and Saturday nights and an auction at the contest, almost \$3,000 was raised for the Leather Archives & Museum and for the FTM conference being held in Los Angeles in October.

It boiled down to Faye Foltz

winning the title. Formerly of Chicago and on the IML staff, Faye is one of the outstanding leather women in our commun-

ity, and she should do well at IMsL in July. Nice going all over leather nation!

#### Buckets of clothes

In case you're wondering what those big buckets are for at Daddy's, the Eagle, The Edge, Hole in the Wall, Powerhouse and the Wooden Horse, they are so you can bring serviceable clothing which will be donated to the St. Anthony Foundation. Part of Lance Brittain and Andre English's "Together, Miracles Will Happen" clothing drive between now and March 31. Clean out your closets!

#### Magna cum dish

Oh, the howling last week by bottom boys who think they do not deserve to be called "pushy" and to be voted upon at the upcoming Golden Dildeaux Awards (Sat., April 10 @ The Eagle). The nominating process begins Monday, March 8 at the Eagle, Daddy's and the Powerhouse in 22 categories. The nominating closes March 21, and on March 22, the voting begins at the same bars for \$1 per ballot. You can vote as many times as you want (it's for charity!) and the voting ends on April 7. If your sexual proclivities have been "out on the streets," you can expect to be nominated. You might even win! ▼

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Unlike many clubs nearby, the Circle J is safe, clean, friendly and relaxed. Not a cruise-bar disguised as a sex club, we're designed for guys who like to show off and watch others show off.

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hey, buddy

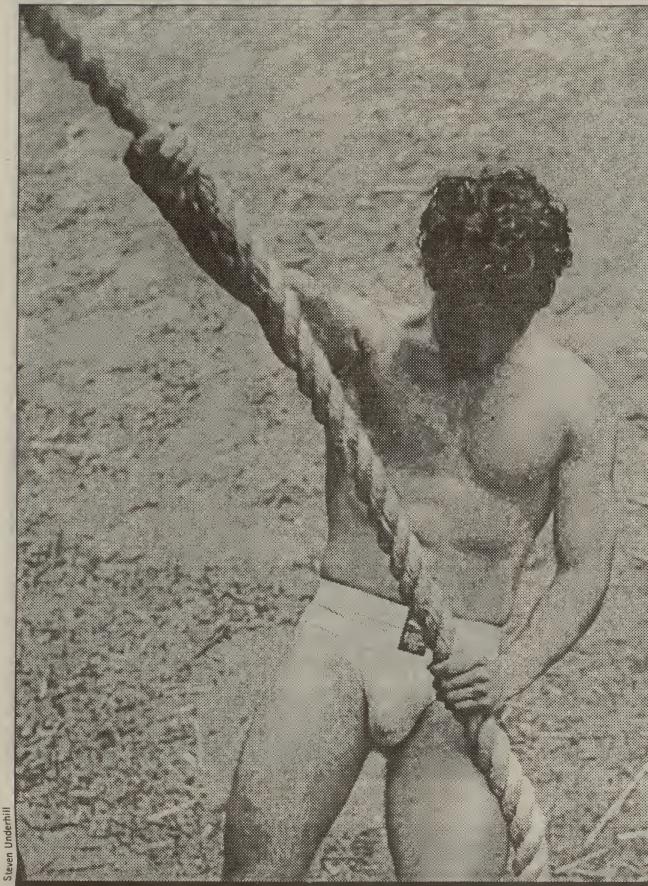
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### PARTING GLANCES

You -wide brim hat, beige duster coat, 3rd row right; me- short blonde hair, glasses, 8th row center. I smiled at you leaving le amiche- would like to meet you... ☎ 6300

Turk & Hyde St. Fri 2/5 4:00PM Tall, thin man wearing jeans with short dark hair got on 16A bus. Older man on corner couldn't get my eyes off of you. Can we get together? ☎ 6301

Theatre Rhino 10 nakedmen 01/28 You: blondish, w/2 friends, turned & looked at me 2-3 times on the way out after the play; Me: 5'8", short black hair, waiting w/blond woman for the crowd to pass, then followed. Pls. call. ☎ 6302

Blow Buddies Thurs: 1-28, 9:30pm. You: Tall & hairy, friendly. Me: A little older than you with a blue shirt and uncut cock. We went behind chair, curtain! Please call. ☎ 6303

The God of Small Things 2/14 Books, Inc. You recommended it; I bought it. You: 6', shaved head, easy smile. Me: dark hair, 5'11", quilted olive jacket, mediterranean looks. Let's meet for book review soon! ☎ 6400

16th St Safeway 2/12 6:45 PM Boarded bart at Embarcadero together and ended up at safeway. Exchanged hellos. You: handsome, clean shaven, beige coat. Me: tall, mustache, blue coat. Wanna say hello again? ☎ 6401

Lone Star 2/8/99 You Latin, white tank top w/left shoulder tattoo. Me, saying goodbye to friends holding you. Our eyes met. I had to go. Call me. ☎ 6402

Late Snack At Eros I was your convenient late night snack with the gentle touch. You stopped leaving this bottom wanting more. Call if you'd like to play another time. ☎ 6501

Frank On Muni Fri 19 1 A.M. You got on at Montgomery, off at VanNess. Wanted to read my sweatshirt. Me: s/p hair, glasses, goatee, black jacket. You have a great smile. Please call. ☎ 6502

Saturday Afternoon 2/13 Older guy in chair at Lovie's, you-young man with baseball cap waiting for same stylist. You have a great smile, would like to connect. ☎ 6505

Brief Encounter: In parking lot behind Castro Theatre. Sun. 2/7. Us in small truck. You like playing big brother. Let's try again. ☎ 6304

GIEN(N): Pleasuredome, 2/14. Sorry about the name thing. I had the bartender that overserved me arrested. Dinner? Lonnie ☎ 6503

El Rio New Years Eve Me gray haired & happy that you danced behind me at midnight, but unhappy that although our eyes met many times, we never did. ☎ 6506

Post/Kearny Fri 2/19 1:55PM You, tall, dark hair, mustache; me, sunglasses, mustache, plaid jacket, tan slacks. Exchanged glances, would like to meet you, please call. ☎ 6504

Bearded Man @ Movies on 1/15 You sat behind me at Gods & Monsters. We said hello afterwards in the lobby- would like to connect with you. Call me. ☎ 6507

Talbert In Berkeley! You: Nice smile, clean slate. Me: Steven, about to turn into a pumpkin. Rushing off at midnight in Berkeley, Tuesday, 2/6. Wished I'd gotten your number. Give a call. ☎ 6500

Safeway On Market Mon 2/15 5:30 You: Adorable little GWM, short brown hair, black leather coat, new jeans, buying doritos and more. Me: GWM, 6'1", trim, glasses. Followed you outside. Too shy to speak. Let's meet! ☎ 6508

### SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

GWM 58, 120lbs. HIV- 7, Hungry little butt. You, enjoy playing with butt. By massage, spanking it, slow FF, fucking me you way I like sucking cock. Looks, weight, unimportant, exploring my butt is. ☎ 6305

Positive Country Bear Seeking companionship. I'm 5'10", 165lbs, hairy, brn/brown, HIV+. Down to earth. Looking for others with similar stats. For dating, poss. LTR. ☎ 6306

Seeking Thai Guy Saw at Dee Krap! I'm a 32 yr. old white ass. Seeking conversation with Thai boys. I'm learning Thai now, but need someone to talk to. Maybe more. You: 32 or under. Me: Blond, blue heavy set. ☎ 6507

Dad Seeks Buddy Bearded GWM in SF, 60 - 5'9", 150#. HIV- NS/ND. Into rubber/leather boots/stockings. ISO mature masc. GWM/GLM. Mutual J/O. Facial hair A+. ☎ 6308

African American Cutie, educated 28, 5'6" 170. Looking for LTR or friendship with HIV- guys. 23-34 that enjoy theatre, dancing, hiking exploring S.F. Cooking, bowling, be cultured & intelligent. ☎ 6309

Younger Than Springtime Is this 65 year-old GWM in attitude toward life and love. 5'11", 150lbs. Good-looking, arts lover, ISO sincere, slender H/A man to share a cigarette/ drink in Hayward. ☎ 6310

You'll Shoot Bigger Loads When I'm sucking you off because of my talented tongue no asshole anywhere has. You'll give up fucking forever once I'm your cock sucker! Let's move you up tonight! ☎ 6311

Boys Wanna Have Fun If you like hot-nights, warm bath with Mr. Bubble in the spring, Let's swing. Summertime is coming. Me: blond, blue, 5'8", 175, young daddy type 33. You: 21 to 35 like to go out to get some coffee! Let's do it.... ☎ 6312

Hot Man, Husband Material Me: Smooth muscular; handsome to 39, 6'1", 190#. Versatile/ bottom, HIV+. Home owner, East Bay Hayward. ISO romance, affection, LTR. You under 45, goodlooking. I can send pic via internet. ☎ 6313

In Search Of Young Man GWM, 30 brn/blu, 5'7", 145lbs. ISO GWM 18-35 brn/blu, blu/blu, brn/brn into exercise, hiking, good times. Prefer long haired men if possible. ☎ 6314

Seeking Possible LTR GWM 55, 6'5" Average looks, top, HIV- seeks GWM 35-60. Bottom HIV- who likes to be sucked and fucked. ☎ 6315

Student Seeks Patron Eccentric, focused student w/ drive & vision ISO a generous open minded man who would be interested in helping me w/ my education in exchange for companionship. Serious only please. ☎ 6316

Handsome Latin Young Is looking for a rich daddy. ☎ 6317

Masc. WM Seeks Masc. BM/P.R. I'm 6', HIV+, 175lbs., 41yrs. (looks younger) brown h/e. goatee, 7 1/2, hairy chest/ass, handsome, seeks indiv. 35-45 in decent shape, majority a top. ☎ 6318

Young Travel Partner With interest in art and languages sought for relationship with caring, fun loving secure, masochistic guy. ☎ 6403

Masc. Vers. HIV+ Top AZ Ruralman 6', 165lb. brn/bl, stache, tattoos, healthy, seeks HIV+ man. You: healthy. Enjoy family, outdoors, heavy travel. LTR ONLY. NO DRUGS, NO FEMS, honesty, monogamy A MUST. ☎ 6404

Husky Horny Solid Blue collar guy grounded spirited enjoys beaches, mountains, horticulture reading good conversation, good food, good wine, the arts. ISO 20-40 together buddy. To share interests & body connection. ☎ 6405

Tall Guy Wanted GWM seeks tall man 6ft or taller, 30-45, any race. Versatile, ND, NS, HIV-. ☎ 6406

Less Mechanical, More Animal ISO Asian, 18-30, slim, somewhat cute, spontaneous, friendly, sexually fun, stable. Me: GWM, 39, 5'11", 170, hairy, bald. We both enjoy life, are good listeners, great kissers, possess self-confidence and an unusual absence of jealousy. LTR? friends first! ☎ 6407

Gateway To The Gances Sought By GWHM, youthful 40's, 6', 160lb, blu/green, cute, smart, fun, creative, in love with Hindu, Muslim, and Persian culture - and hoping to go deeper. ☎ 6509

Seeking Partnership Rope bondage master ISO masochist. Enjoying clothpins, flogging et al for exploration. You be in-shape, hung & serious. I'm 5'9", 185#, warm & experienced. Relationship oriented. ☎ 6408

Got Dick And Manners? Tall genteel southerner, 50's, HIV, cut, smoker, stocky, social director type. Looking for GWM 30-50 with cut bone for oral encounters and more. So let's start with cocktails. ☎ 6409

Public Bottom/ Bedroom Bottom GWM 41 6'1" 195lbs, beard sp hair, seeks assertive man in public & passive boy in private. Must love to have fun, laugh & communicate taller a plus. ☎ 6410

Handsome Muscular Italian GWM, 38, 6'2", 185lbs, into fitness, travel, romance & quiet times, seeks another HIV Negative extremely will hung man for monogamous relationship. ☎ 6411

Quality And Passionate Asian Seeks other quality gay men for dating & possible LTR. 39y.o. Professional, sincere, HIV neg, fit, quiet, loves romantic dinners & beach walks. No games. No B.S. ☎ 6412

Ted Is On The Rebound ISO GM with light colored eyes, age and waist under 32. Into w/s, rimming, fucking, versatile preferred. Me: heavy hairy bear w/beard, 43. Must like Barbara and Musicals. HI James. ☎ 6413

Former Peace Officer Like Latino plus others. WM 5'11" 180, into working out. Sexually inhibited and shy like someone with a sense of humor. ☎ 6414

Attractive Latino Goodlooking Latino 33y/o, dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, 5'7" 145#, professional looking for GWM between 26-39y/o for friendship or more. I like to go to movies, travel, hiking call me. ☎ 6415

Clean Ass Only Healthy GBM 55 pos, looking for LT ass eating relationship, must love jockstraps. I eat- you enjoy. ☎ 6521

Big White Dick Wants Black Man To suck, kiss, cuddle. I'm 50 5'8", 150lbs. GWM no smoker. I like lots of affection and seek a LTR. No heavydrinkers or drugs. Call me. ☎ 6416

Serious Lover Wanted! Masculine, HIV-, older white male 50-70. Wanted for stable relationship. Prefer little tummy. Black male 53, 5'9", 168 and available. ☎ 6417

Slim Young Bottom Who wants older, 50's, hairy, domineering, masculine, affectionate, sensual, possessive, HIV neg, NS, no drugs. ☎ 6418

Together In Sonoma County Russian River area GWM; 6'2", 195#: buzz-cut; positive in every way. Seeking LTR with equally positive men of quality. Intelligence, humor, and comprehension of the word commitment requested. Similar age, good looks, facial hair, uninhibited and sexual versatility are pluses. Let's work together to build the connection. We both deserve. ☎ 6419

Tit Play Want in shape guys with buffed pecs and responsive nipples. For tender touch, nibbling, sucking, biting. Attractive GWM, tall, lean, 185, 6'1", 45, HIV-. ☎ 6405

Uncut Loverman Wanted GWM seeks warm, loving, and affectionate uncut GM for relationship involving sharing, caring, growth, bonding, and lots of safe sex. I'm 52, 5'8", 175, brn/bl, beard, HIV-. ☎ 6511

Latino ISO East Bay Man Only Attractive, 30's, 5'9", 155, smooth body/face, likes outdoors, healthy life, ISO under 45, any race in good shape, mature honest, healthy, for friendship or possible LTR. S 6512

Cock sucker Extraordinaire Best cock sucking in town by talented and experienced total bottom for your pleasure. UR GWM tall goodlooking & endowed, HIV-. I am 5'8", salt/pepper, stache. ND, aroma okay. ☎ 6320

All American Male ISO Same/GLM 34, 6'2", 210, S/P/blue, extremely handsome professional. Passionate, sensual spirit; ivy-educated mind; athletic body. HIV+. Into biking, outdoors, romance, relationship. You: 30's, professional, financially stable, adventurous, relationship oriented. ☎ 6513

Hunk 6ft 190 33w 49 Neg Gdlikg Fit, muscled, exceptionally well-maintained physically balanced, educated, masculine nice guy with sense of humor. A maverick, never part of gay mainstream looking to connect with 1 right guy. ☎ 6514

I Will Marry For Money GWM, 29, very attractive all around, sweet, confident, originally from small town sees very successful husband. I want security, comfort, a partner, happiness. ☎ 6515

GAM Seeks GWM 33 GAM, 5'8" 150#, professional seeking attractive, romantic WM under 45 for friendship and more. I enjoy travel, reading, eating out, nights out occasionally, Pls call. ☎ 6516

Hot Daddy Seeks Same Nice guy masc. Vers. 60, 6'1" 180 hung big ISO same. Sense of humor important. No tweakers. No wimples. ☎ 6517

Tall Big Dicked Athlete Wants Same for jack-off/exhibition session. I'm lean/muscular, buzz-cut, 8" cock, 6'3", 200lbs. You be close to this too. Turn us: Jock straps, masculinity. HI James. ☎ 6518

Rancher Seeks Cowboy GWM 40's 5'10", brown eyes, blackhair, beard seeks GWM 25-40 who enjoys rural life, hard work, honesty N/D, N/A home body for monogamous LTR. ☎ 6519

Attractive Latino Goodlooking 33 y/o, dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, 5'7" 145#, professional looking for GWM between 26-39y/o for friendship or more. Me: Like movies, dining out, tennis, hiking, travel. Call me. ☎ 6520

RUHIV+ Black/Latin Concord Top? HIV+ Pittsburgh bottom, 36, blue, brown, 185, Solano drive in, fleamarkets, bar-b-ques, home improvements. Let's snuggle and playhouse! ☎ 6522

AGGRESSIVE BLACK MEN GWM 6'165lbs. Would like to be dominated sexually. I have a deep throat and bottom for black dick. I'm all yours anytime you call. ☎ 6523

Sugar Boy Sought by GWM 58. You are GWM under 41, established, in great shape, passionate. We like travel, intellect, fine food, the arts, athleticism, family. Both are okay with HIV. ☎ 6524

Tall Dark Handsome Loving Hunk Passionate GWM LTR. Accomplished, 6'2", 190#, 43, buffed goatee Italian. Fun, exclusive, sincere, HIV+ nonprogres. Seeks similar 35-45. GWM, professional, relationship oriented for soulmate. Bodybuilder A+. ☎ 6525

Style And Sophistication GWM, youthful 46, 5'7", good-looking, intelligent, sensitive, compassionate gentleman seeks goodlooking WM with similar qualities. Interests include symphony, theater, C&W dance, working out, and traveling abroad. ☎ 6510

Hunk 6ft 190 33w 49 Neg Gdlikg Fit, muscled, exceptionally well-maintained body, face. Balanced, educated, masculine nice guy with sense of humor. A maverick, never part of gay mainstream looking to connect with 1 right guy. ☎ 6526

### SEEKING ADVENTURE

Cock sucker Extraordinaire Best cock sucking in town by talented and experienced total bottom for your pleasure. UR GWM tall goodlooking & endowed, HIV-. I am 5'8", salt/pepper, stache. ND, aroma okay. ☎ 6320

**Want Fuck Buddy Suck Buddy**  
GWM 50 yr., 173-5'11" HIV-NS-ND. Looking for guy to fuck and get fucked, and play with your balls, ass, tits. Like 7" or 8" dick, race & age no factor call: S 6321

**Vallejo Top**  
Attractive 27 yr. old Black male, 6'2", 190lbs. Seeks men under 30 for safe discreet adventure. ☎ 6322

**Eat My Ass!**  
8 inch uncut blond top seeks friendly butt lickers who want to satisfy my tight smooth bubbly butt and sweet hole. Be ready for more hot action. ☎ 6323

**The Best Of British**  
Bearded British literacy gent and professor, 50, slim, uncut, available for private tutorials with UC students or equivalent, 20-30. East Bay. ☎ 6324

**Priapian Cult Priest?**  
Missed your ad and eager to serve. Also provide glory hole worship to celebrate phallus. Seek other adherents who honor symbol of men. ☎ 6325

**Personal Cocksvucker Wanted**  
Well hung uncut B/M needs mature deep throat experts. You will service my cockringed tool on your knees. Looks unimportant but ability is. Men of color, aroma a plus. ☎ 6326

**8 Uncut Inch Pump Machine!**  
For guys who want to get it in. I am an insatiable, inshape, hairy chested, goated sexy top who wants his big power tool inside you all the way. ☎ 6327

**Swallow It All The Way Down**  
WM 50 HIV- Very masculine good shape dominant verbal seeks very submissive HIV- cocksucker with obedient insatiable cum hungry deep throat for regular long sessions at your place in SF. ☎ 6328

**HIV- Police, Fire, Military Men**  
Trim, under 50, 7". Wanted for oral service, no reciprocation necessary. I am a shy GWM in my 50's, 5'10", 150#, dark brown hair. Enjoy classical music, computers, outdoors. ☎ 6329

**Just Shut Up And Ride**  
WM 34 5'10", 200lb, blonde/blue muscle hunk- 48" ch 32" w 18" arms, wants goodlooking masculine men to pump or get pumped full of squirt. Also love to get massaged and jerked off anytime! ☎ 6330

**Gd Things Come In Small Pkgs.**  
Gdko, WM, 42, 5'5", 125lbs, dkbrn/grn, stache, lean, nicely muscled, 7". Fun hot times with in shape guys. One time or ongoing. New fulltime Russian River resident. ☎ 6331

**Need Slim Asian To Service**  
This 35 y.o. GWM. Need a total bottom, slim smooth Asian boy toy, to take care of me during daytime. ☎ 6332

**Tall, Handsome, Stud, 38, GWM**  
Cocksvucker wants nasty hung uncut Mexican, Latin, Italian, Arab, or White men with tattoos, who like to watch porno, get sucked, 69 or fuck me dogie style. ☎ 6333

**Mature Fun And Hot Sex**  
GWM, 58, tall, slim & hung, seeks good times with other sexy men 40 to 60. I love sex, movies, sex, sports, sex, & theatre. Let's talk! ☎ 6334

**Iso Extremely Hairy Buddy**  
GWM, 5'8", 145lbs, hairy, seeks same-muscled, very hairy, low fat, into lots of rough pec-work, j/o, sweat, leather and hairy-skin-on-hairy-muscle rough -housing. ☎ 6335

**Naked WeightLifting**  
Bench press in the buff! Nude and sweaty. Exhibitionist seeks other hot men with home gym equipment. Muscles. Mirrors and erotic weight training. Steamy shower afterwards encouraged! ☎ 6336

**Well Hung Aussie Hospitality**  
Three guys, ages 25-38, tops, hung, all genuine nine inches plus, masculine, muscular, attractive, seek insatiable attractive bottoms to 40. Make your Melbourne Vacation, fun for your butt. ☎ 6337

**Palo Alto 40 5'11" 185 Asian**  
Likes giving guys under 45 before 1pm head, with no recip. At your place. UB average size to well endowed. ☎ 6338

**Smooth Hairless Muscles**  
Show off your hot naked muscles. Let me lick your smooth chest, thick cock, low hanging balls. My wet tongue all over erect muscles. How often do you shave, stud??!! ☎ 6339

**GWM HIV+ 28yo 5'5" 125#**  
Blond buzzcut, cute lankey bottom, seeks attractive, clean shaven, HWP top guys who are HIV+ (or not) for mutual fun. Altno- dude's are A+. ☎ 6340

**East Bay**  
60yr. 6'2" 230lbs. I love and need BIG cut cocks anyway you want to give it. Also love big feet and love naked men, no cockrings please. ☎ 6341

**Sexy Cute Bottom**  
Masculine Spanish/Italian, yng 40s, 5'7", brn/brn, mustache, 140lb, well proportioned boy body w/beautiful butt & nice hairy legs. You: Attractive, masculine, 5'8" +, 28-40. ☎ 6342

**Hot White Pig Bottom Wanted**  
By 54yr. white top 6'0" 155lbs. Brn/brn glasses 9" cut, hairy chest & stomach. Love to fuck white men under 40. Be smooth and well built. ☎ 6343

**Redwood City F-Buddy Wanted**  
Me: 6'3" brn/grn 43, GWM 195 med. build attractive, med.

Hairy romantic Seeking: Topman 7+-thick. Handsome, hairy A+. Height, weight proportionate. 30's-40's, honest sincere only. Smoker ok. ☎ 6421

**Sexy, Butch, Boy Wants Your Direct**  
3 ways, roleplay, light bondage, S&M, group scenes. I'm game with guys around my age 33, goodlooking, hung & verbal. I'm 5'11", 170lbs, 170 blu/brn, military cut. Service with a smile. ☎ 6422

**Big Dicked Masturbation**  
Let's put our big fat dicks together for exhib. J/O. Verbal, masculine, goodlooking men wanted. No drugs, alcohol or smoke. ☎ 6423

**Fuck Buddies Wanted By Latino**  
I'm a few good men to suck my big dick and pump my hot hole. ☎ 6424

**Bottom Seeking Tops**  
GWM, 45, 6', goodlooking bottom, seeks hung tops into long fuck sessions. HIV+. ☎ 6425

**Tall Fantasy To Fulfill**  
You: Tall (6'5"+), 225-280#, 30-45, muscular, vy hairy, big thick dick, top, HIV-(WM/BM). Me: 5'11", 210#, really cute, 35, GWM, nice dick, muscular. For discrete, respectable encounter. ☎ 6426

**Hot Muscular Uncut Black Guy**  
Frequent-flying corporate warrior; 5'10", 180, hard body, hairy chest, likes masculine ass, 41, always horny. Seeking small room in Castro to crash/fuck/work/escape. Rent/terms, negotiable. ☎ 6427

**Your Ass, My Face, Spread'Em**  
E. Bay, GWM, 55, stocky, hairy in-shape BM, HM, who likes to have a white guy kiss his ass. HIV-, hairy, uncut, ok. ☎ 6529

**Iso Extremely Hairy Buddy**  
GWM, 5'8", 145lbs, hairy, seeks same-muscled, very hairy, low fat, into lots of rough pec-work, j/o, sweat, leather and hairy-skin-on-hairy-muscle rough -housing. ☎ 6335

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**Well Hung Aussie Hospitality**  
Three guys, ages 25-38, tops, hung, all genuine nine inches plus, masculine, muscular, attractive, seek insatiable attractive bottoms to 40. Make your Melbourne Vacation, fun for your butt. ☎ 6337

**Fuckbuddy Wanted**  
GM seeks man for versatile sex, 25-45, any race, nd, ns. HIV-. Tall++, 7" or more. ☎ 6528

**Old Dogs Can Learn New Tricks**  
Previously french passive WM, wants down on knees as you grab back of my head ramming your cock down my virgin throat ending with you jacking -off on my face. ☎ 6428

**Hairy Ass Arab**  
Gd looking 5'7" 152lbs. Gr. eyes, hairy chest, looking for tops to stretch and plow his ass. ☎ 6429

**Horseshoe Built Black Cocks**  
Lord black guys wanted by, bi smooth Sicilian goodlooking 5'8" tall, 155lbs, 30" waist. 7"x5" cut shaved balls & ass with bikini tan line, discreet. ☎ 6430

**Been Out Of Step, But I'm Back**  
Now to satisfy your carnal lusts. W/male, 6'220#, S+P Buzzcut, MST & very orally inclined. Castro location, weekends, 12-5am. ☎ 6431

**Asian Seeks Real Men**  
32, GDLKG 5'7" 152lbs. HIV- Asian looking for men around my age who takes charge in bed, good shape, clean body and teach me how to get fucked. ☎ 6432

**Pig Black Bottom Seeks Top**  
Dominant top verbal kink, sleaze, raunch cigar etc. Available eve & week ends adventure. ☎ 6433

**Massage Exchange**  
Attractive Caucasian ISO Latino, Asian or Caucasian for massage exchange and more if there is mutual interest. Please be disease free, HIV negative, good height/weight proportioned. ☎ 6434

**Butt Action**  
Like things stuck up your butt? To be teased, fingered and filled? Handsome white guy, 40's, 6', trim, fit. Looking for attractive, trim to muscular guy, 30's, HIV-, nonsmoker for fun and possible friendship. ☎ 6435

**AI Oral Service- Delivered**  
SF GWM, HIV-, 6', handsome, delivers complete oral service to mature, trim guys who really dig getting sucked off. Your place. No reciprocation. HIV-. ☎ 6436

**Why Waste Time Cruising?**  
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**Studs Who Like To...**  
Kick back, get exceptional head & rim job, drop a load, look no further. Italian btm, 6', 45, 210# rugged, goatee & mst. Castro location 12-5am ☎ 6530

**Mellow Mouth 4 Manly Members**  
Cocksvucker dad, 47, trim, short beard gives smooth bj's to black, white hungstuds, my place. Sun-Mon. best. Come pump & unload. Be trim, together & primed. ☎ 6531

**Older Seeks Younger 18-40 Male**  
For ongoing sex and friendship. I'm 75, 5'8", 170, fun loving and romantic. Gay, bi, bi-curious ok, since I'll teach you if necessary. Open to LTR. ☎ 6532

**Bottom Seeking Tops**  
GWM, 40, 5'11", 168, good-looking, ISO other hot men into boots, leather and inescapable bondage. Experienced, safe, sane, HIV-. ☎ 6534

**Big Nipples On Young Cub 4u**  
45 ACM waiting for hot nipple play. Big pccs A+. Black/Asian/Latino A++ ☎ 6536

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**Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum**

**East European Or Russian Men**  
Trim, HIV-neg, under 50, 7" wanted for oral sex. No reciprocation necessary. I am a GWM in my 50's, 5'10", 150#, dark brown hair somewhat shy. ☎ 6533

**Fuckbuddy Wanted**  
Top needs bottom boy, Me: attractive, GWM, 46, 6', 250lbs, husky build, brown hair/mustache, hairy chest/stomach. You: attractive, GM (white, asian, latin), smooth/moderate body hair, nice buns. ☎ 6534

**Footloose Fun**  
WM boomer wants to lick you all over, starting with your feet. Erotic massage too. I'm VGL, trim, healthy, versatile, friendly, sincere. You're a WM, cute, youngish, frisky, clean-shaven, HIV-. ☎ 6535

**Passionate!**  
Secure, prof' seeks fuckbuddy. Me: GWM, 6', 165#, Hzl/Brn (receding), healthy HIV+, Trim/toned. Adventurous, msc bottom. ISO fulloving GWM to share hot times. Must be in shape. Poss LTR. ☎ 6536

**Wants J/O Addict Buddies**  
GWM, 31, thin, totally addicted to J/O, jocks naked for hours, days, wants like-minded buddies for repeated, obsessive, cumspurting marathon sessions. Under 35, trim, southbay A+. ☎ 6537

**Hot Times For A Hot Latino**  
Masculine, In-shape couple, mid-30's, HIV-, seek friendly Latino bottom, under 30, for friendship, good times, and safe 3 ways. First time free, HIV negative, good height/weight proportioned. ☎ 6538

**Massage Exchange**  
Attractive Caucasian ISO Latino, Asian or Caucasian for massage exchange and more if there is mutual interest. Please be disease free, HIV negative, good height/weight proportioned. ☎ 6539

**Excellent Mouth and Butt**  
24GWM blu/blu, 5'7", 135, 8 cut, hairy chest, legs, butt and very versatile. Looking to suck and swallow, maybe more. Young uncut Latians, others a plus, but not necessary. ☎ 6539

**Butt Action**  
Like things stuck up your butt?

To be teased, fingered and filled?

Handsome white guy, 40's, 6', trim, fit. Looking for attractive, trim to muscular guy, 30's, HIV-, nonsmoker for fun and possible friendship. ☎ 6435

**Suck Daddy's Huge Cock**  
GWM, 55, 5'11", 165 wants to lay back and get his balls drained. Dad likes to suck a big one too! You be 20-50 in excellent shape, attractive, cauc. ☎ 6540

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SF GWM, HIV-, 6', handsome, delivers complete oral service to mature, trim guys who really dig getting sucked off. Your place. No reciprocation. HIV-. ☎ 6436

**FETISHES**  
Bondage Playmate  
GWM, 40, 5'11", 168, good-looking, ISO other hot men into boots, leather and inescapable bondage. Experienced, safe, sane, HIV-. ☎ 6534

**Big Nipples On Young Cub 4u**  
45 ACM waiting for hot nipple play. Big pccs A+. Black/Asian/Latino A++ ☎ 6536

**Masc. Man Needs Diapering!**  
Bi WM in SF. 6'3", handsome, very masculine. ISO male dom. to diaper me on regular basis. Pls. call soon. This ad is real and my diapers dirty. ☎ 6545

**Seeking Bondage**  
Bottom seeks top into safe bondage scenes. GWM, 41, 5'8", 155, good looking, athletic, BD, TT, CBT. I also can switch. ☎ 6548

**Butt Munch**  
GWM seeks tight & clean GWM who really gets off being rimmed. If you like it as much as I do-Call me. ☎ 6440

**Ted Is On The Rebound**  
ISO GM with light colored eyes, age and waist under 32. Into rimming fucking, w/s, versatile preferred. Me: heavy, hairy, bear w/beard, 43. Must like Barbara and musicals. Hi James. ☎ 6441

**ISO Preppies**  
WLM 40, 6', 155lbs, ISO dominant preppie/yuppie/ exec types, who want to be orally serviced all over. Kink optional. Direct meetings only no games. No S&M, pain, gay scene. ☎ 6511

**Wrestle-Play, Anyone?**  
Let's get out of our heads & into our bodies. Sweat as we playfully struggle to submission wearing jocks, speedos, nothing. I'm lean, muscled, 6'2", 168. You're hard, skinny to muscular, g/bi WM. Any height. ☎ 6542

**Are You ISO: 24/7 Total Slave?**  
GWM 40 5'10", 155, 5'11", in S.F. ISO: Handsome, dominant, aggressive, demanding GWM master 6ft. plus for 24/7 ownership. Training, W/S, B/D, humiliation, public scenes, & cage confinement. Masters desired & crotch to be my universe, No B.S. ☎ 6543

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GWM 42 5'10", 175lbs br;br  
ISO bondage bottoms masochists. Safe flagging, bondage, tt, cbt, hot wax, etc. Must be willing to endure discomfort and some pain. ☎ 6544

**Huge Nipples For Tit Pig**  
Let a hot masculine man work your hungry tits with my hands, mouth, pumps and toys. I'm great at what I do. ☎ 6545

**Jackoff Showoff? Need An Ap?**  
Devoted to pleasing yourself? Love demonstrating your expertise in windows for worshipful neighbors? Need an SF ap? If your Asian or GWM, 30's or 40's, let's talk. ☎ 6546

**Work My Nipples While I Stoke**  
Share condo for Fri. and Sat. nights (March 12 and 13). Where the action is during Tahoe Gay Ski Week. \$15.65 includes 2 lift tickets. ☎ 6442

**ISO Native Italian Speaker**  
GWM needs help in learning basic language skills for upcoming trip. Unable to pay. ☎ 6443

**Transvestite Craves Come**  
Big cocks with big loads, friends, roommates, gang-bangs, sex clubs, open to suggestions. Down my throat, deep inside me, on my lips, splashed on my panties. Set me up. ☎ 6444

**Forceful Man Is Desired...**  
If you are interested in a discreet understated erotic dominance (S/M/BD ect), over another male, I am available. Older Englishman, trim, durable. ☎ 6445

**Attention Gay Men Need A Wife?**  
Arractive 44yo SWF Lesbian ISO a gay man that needs a wife for show only. No sex. Living & financial arrangements to be discussed. Marriage for citizenship also. So Co. pref. ☎ 6553

**Jerk Off Buddy**  
Love those dicks. Come and shoot your load if your 21 to 50 Black, Latin, Indian, Greek, or French. ☎ 6554

**Feet! Fun! And Friendship!**  
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**ISO Electric Toys**  
Mature GWM HIV- 120# horny, shaved ball; & 7 cock. Plus love sucking cock. My fantasy, having my balls massage with electric. Fisting me at same time. I am eager and submissive, aroma. ok. ☎ 6550

**Achtung. Blond Beasts & Others**  
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## COPLES

**Dad & Boy ISO Big Brother**  
You be flexible middle man, mid 30's to mid 40's, who would like to suck on dad while getting serviced by your little brother. Dad, 5'10", 165#, crew-cut w/beard, HIV+. Boy, 6', 160#, buzz-cut w/goatee, HIV+. ☎ 6348

**Bi WM & Bi AM Seek Playmates**  
Bi WM, blond, 30, Jock and Bi AM, Filipino, 30, sexy seek WM for intense sessions. Couples, blonds, military, and bi a plus. ☎ 6552

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GWM needs help in learning basic language skills for upcoming trip. Unable to pay. ☎ 6443

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# Some enchanted Orgy

by Gregg Shapiro

Of all the musical trends currently crossing the horizon and heading for your ears, the one I least expected involved glam rock. Late last year, the one-two punch of Todd Haynes's underrated and underappreciated glam-rock movie *Velvet Goldmine* and a second also underrated and underappreciated disc by Placebo (*Without You I'm Nothing*) may have failed to spark the frenzy some had hoped for regarding a glam revival. However, the combination of a late '98 album such as *Candyass* (Elementree/Reprise) by Orgy and early '99 discs such as *Maledictions* (Slash) by Grand Mal, *Trinket* (RCA) by Trinket and *Surreal* (Maverick/WB) by Swimmer might do the trick.

On their debut disc *Candyass*, Orgy is glam like Marilyn Manson (who gets thanked in the liner notes) is glam. Eleven of the disc's twelve tracks are Orgy originals in which vocals ride a wave created by guitars, drums and synthesizers. Although they claim that the name of their band is not specifically sexual (it's supposed to be an "orgy" of sounds), there are plenty of sexual references (including the songs "Fetisha" and "Stitches"). Mostly, the songs are about being an outcast, along the lines of early Ministry. A particular high point occurs on Orgy's cover of New Order's "Blue Monday."

Where Orgy has a California (read Hollywood) feel throughout, Grand Mal has a distinctive



Orgy

NYC/British thing going on with their major-label debut disc *Maledictions*. Dave Fridmann, known for his work with The Flaming Lips, also gives Grand Mal their heat. You can practically hear the lead singer's lip curling while he sings, particularly on tracks such as "Superstars," "Out On Bail," "I'm In Trouble," and "Fun Fun Fun," to name a few. Consider that a recommendation.

Glam rock was something of an underground sensation the first time around, although there were a few mainstream exceptions that led to radio play and hit single status (T. Rex's "Bang A Gong" comes to mind). If I were a gambling man, and I'm not, I'd say that Trinket and Swimmer would be the two glam bands from the current crop that have the most potential for commercial success. ▼

Just to show you how much things have changed, Trinket is a glam rock quintet from Georgia! Lead singer Brian Youmans is more pout than sneer, but it works in his favor. Representing the lighter side of glam, Trinket really sparkles on tracks such as "Bruise-Violet Days," "To Be A Star," "Unbehaved," "Deceiver," "Burgundy Shine," and "Haunt Pallenberg."

Rocking a little harder is the glam/punk hybrid Swimmer. The buzz on this band is that they must be seen live to be fully appreciated. Until they get to your town, their major-label debut disc, *Surreal*, will have to satisfy your appetite for late '90s glam. That satisfaction can be found in abundance on tracks such as "Dirty Word," "Special Life," "Kick In The Head," "Spaced Out Hat," "Sick Friend," and the title track. ▼



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## Out There

◀ page 30

tion of his *Indian Ink* at the Geary Theatre. It did make us wince a bit, however, when, for example, star of stage and TV screen **Jean Stapleton** flubbed some of her lines, knowing that the man who penned them was there in the audience for every excruciating lapse. Ah, the immediacy of live theatre!

### Pit stop

Moments before launching into the overture to the SF Ballet's *Othello* last Saturday night at the War Memorial, and after acknowledging the audience's applause, conductor **Emil de Cou** dashed out of the orchestra pit and backstage again. Had he forgotten his copy of **Elliot Goldenthal's** score? Was his car parked at a meter? Did he have to visit the Men's Room? Out There will



Matthew Parris

### Gays in high places

All this outing of gay ministers in Great Britain is getting to be a full-season sport. Gay former Tory MP **Matthew Parris** outed current Labor MP **Peter Mandelson** on the BBC's *Newsnight*. He insisted to *Attitude's* **Mark Simpson**: "I named him completely on the spur of the moment. ... We were discussing homosexuality in public life, and I mentioned that there were two gays in the cabinet. In my head I could think of four, but I said two. ... [Reporter] **Jeremy Paxman** asked me to name them, so I named [Labor MP] **Chris Smith** without a moment's hesitation, because you can. I did hesitate before naming Peter not because there's any secret about his sexuality — there simply isn't — but because it makes him cross. But then I thought, it's always fun to make Peter cross, and I mean that in an affectionate way, so I did." Those wacky MPs. Next thing you know, there'll be one of them in the centerfold of *Euro Man* magazine.

### Bottom concerns

Mail we never finished reading dept.: "When **Charles Kallmann**, an international businessman and entrepreneur, brought his European-born wife, **Wiebke**, to the United States to live, they were astonished to find that America was a country without a bidet."

But not without recycling bins, fortunately. ▼

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\$40 sensual nude mass 6' 195#  
sexy muscular hunk very friendly,  
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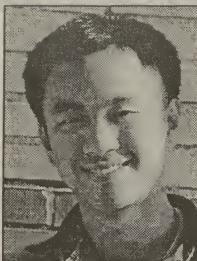
## MASSAGE

505-4971

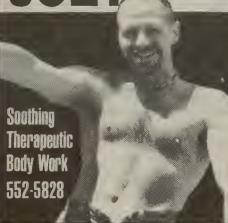
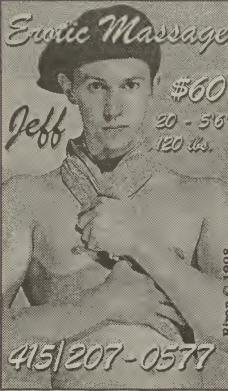
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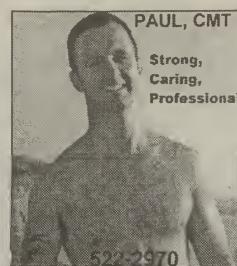
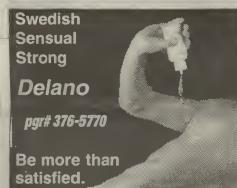


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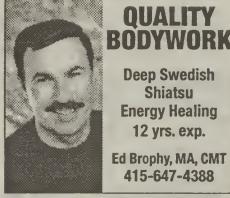
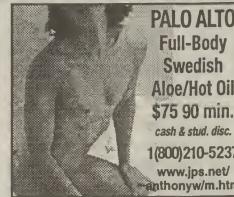
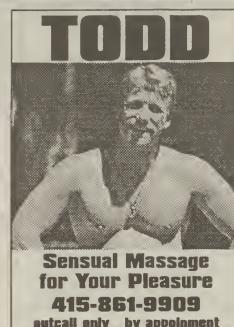
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In/Out, SF, Marin, Days/Eves. MIKE

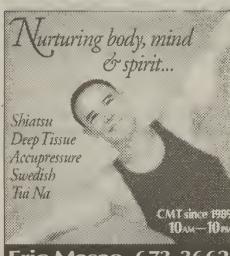
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Blond, strong, deep, relaxing massage  
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Hard raw tight long thick,juicy stud A real 9X7 Experienced Top Justin415-810-5611 \$85in/\$90out

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**BIG NUTS - ROUND BUTT - ROCK HARD MEAT**  
 35 5'9 190 44c 34w 17a • SHAVED HEAD • GOATEE  
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**Oh, Daddy!**  
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22yo Frat boy Hunk  
 Solid muscular pecs, abs, & legs.  
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 Huge Weapon Hung 10X7 Satisfaction  
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Tall, muscular, great pecs, 9"  
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 39yo top 6'1", 195#, 7" uncult, flatop  
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 Beginner? Have playspace & equip.  
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 6' 205lbs Blk Hair /Goatee  
 Very Thick, Very Hard 7 1/2"  
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 College Jock with defined  
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 8" uncult. Outcalls, Pref/hotels. Gino  
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 Enjoy the Fantasy. Most all scenes  
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 5'11" 150lbs 7" Tight Bod Always  
 Rock Hard, I'll do it for it. Bad Brad  
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 Rockhard, smooth globes of butt!  
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 6', 150lbs, Thick jet-black hair.  
 Long eyelashes, defined, lean, toned  
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 Twin mounds of pleasure!

Affectionate, passionate, exclusive  
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 Uninhibited versatile fun loving  
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 Lean, athletic Body-versatile  
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6ft. of ripped muscles, adorable  
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**20YRS 6'5" 180#**  
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**ATTENTION ALL TOPS**  
 Great looking blond boy 5'7 135  
**HOT BOTTOM AVAILABLE**  
 Tight athletic build smooth and  
 available 4 discreet mild 2

wild sessions, uninhibited, open  
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 5'8"160# Muscle br/b, sweet muscle  
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 7.5CUT VERSITLE TOP  
 WILLING TO WORK AND PLAY  
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Beautiful sexy gym toned body  
**HARD THICK UNCUT TRUE 10"**  
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**TOP STUD--OVER 9"**  
 Very clean, very friendly in/out  
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Versatile, Sexy, College Stud  
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**8 THICK INCHES**  
 Wild uninhibited, Sensual, Nasty  
 5'10", Toned body, Great Butt 30yo  
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 Feet back and spread me!!!  
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 Call Matt 24hrs. 267-1843

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 Passionate, Affectionate bottom  
 Very handsome, clean-cut, safe  
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## PERSONALS

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50 ch. 32 wst. Call Pete  
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LONG, SENSUAL SESSIONS WITH A TOP WHO ENJOYS TAKING HIS TIME, TALL & BUILT FULL PLAYROOM.  
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**Blonde Godstud**

**Top**  
6'2"  
180  
9x7  
\$150+ Out only  
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All scenes/cbt, ff, raunch, ws, Spankings, floggings, dogs, babies. Prisoners. Hot intense top will take you down. Private SF space.  
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6'190 lbs thick 8" br, hair/goatee Affectionate or rough friendly and discreet. Steve 2532264 Travel ok

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5'8", 160#, 34yo, \$120out 207-6696

5'11" 150lbs, blond hung!! 224-2277

Dutch, Irish, Aussie 27 5'10" 160lb!!

**100% GUARANTEED!**

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Outgoing, real, love new ideas & very adventurous & creative! I live in SF & E.Bay. Don't be fooled by others

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Solid take charge guy. Hairy body, beard, shaved head, X-hot man. Intense, fun, focused. 201-6533 (out)

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Redhead Well-hung w/a snow-white tan. 26yo, out only 708-1981.

E10

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27, 5'10", 160lbs, 29" W  
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25y, 5'7", 136lbs, cleancut & smooth

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E09

**SIZE 12 FEET 21YO WM**

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5'8" 135# smooth clean cut discrete

brown/brown Chad 415-241-9381

Pgr. 303-6165 \$100

E09

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32 5'10" 165# brn/blu 8"

Big hairy pecs & hard abs

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E10

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For party or single 925-939-5049

E11

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Exotic looks. A young George Hamil-

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Weekend. Max 934-1209.

E09

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E09

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E09

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E11

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E10

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E09

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E11

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E10

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Doug 5'8" 130# is amiable, can carry on a conversation with anyone, and fun to be with. Favors the company of a gentleman. I am smooth, boyish and good looking. 270-0233

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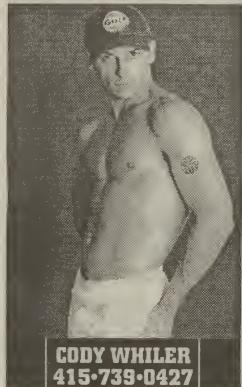
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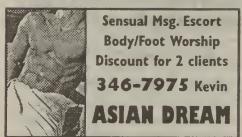
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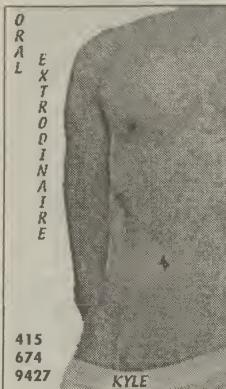
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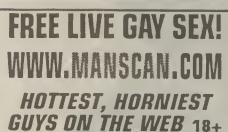
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## PEOPLE



## Exhibitionist Garage

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Garage open every night 8pm-12m except Mon and Thu.

Cool lighting, huge show-off space. In addition, adjoining video theater features 3 continuous porno screens and is open every day 10am-12m.

Unlike many clubs nearby, the Circle J is safe, clean, friendly and relaxed. Not a cruise bar disguised as a sex club, we're designed for guys who like to show off and watch others show it off. Must check street clothes Tue & Fri (underwear OK); Clothes check also available other nights. Adm \$8

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## BAY AREA REPORTER

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NOON on MONDAY.  
Payment *must* accompany ad.  
No ads taken over the telephone. If you have a question, call 415.861.5019. Display advertising rates available upon request.

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<b>X-BOLD</b>	triple price

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Expiration Date  
Signature  
Name

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Number Adds Up.

THE REAL STORY ON PHONE CHAT SYSTEMS.  
OUR NUMBERS ADD UP.

Some people spend thousands of dollars on a high priced dating service. We call these people dumb.

Some people spend \$3.99 a minute to find the love of their life or a one night stand.

We call these people dumber.

And we mean that in the nicest possible way. We don't mean to be arrogant, brash or rude but why would you spend hundreds and sometimes thousands of dollars when the largest most popular gay chat line costs under 80 cents a day?

If you want to throw away your money — why not give it to the charity of your choice. Doesn't that make more sense?

The Number is the largest, most popular gay chat line in the U.S. With just one phone call you will reach a wide array of choices from 1 on 1 chat to locker rooms, group conferences, professional services, voice notes, private rooms and more.

And of course — being big — has its advantages — no matter what anyone tells you! The Number has more guys on its system, from the San Francisco area, than any other phone system out there. And the really cool thing about it is that The Number costs less than anyone else! Don't take their word for it. Look at the other ads, check their rates and see for yourself. The Number costs as low as 80 cents a day when taking a monthly membership for **\$24.00** — allowing you to call as many times as you like for the entire month! Or — for only **\$12.00** — you will receive unlimited access to the service for three full days!

## So let's recap, shall we?

1. The Number is the largest, most popular gay chat phone line in the United States (The Number family has locations in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Atlanta, Houston, Dallas, Chicago, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles as "Malefon", New York, Boston, Amsterdam, London, Manchester, Paris and Cologne.)
2. The Number has the most options and the hottest guys from your area.
3. The Number costs less than any other phone service out there.

We just thought you should know.

*Thanks for reading.*

**THE NUMBER SAN FRANCISCO. 415-392-8400**

*(Also — for those of you still not convinced call 415-392-1584 and sample the system for FREE.)*

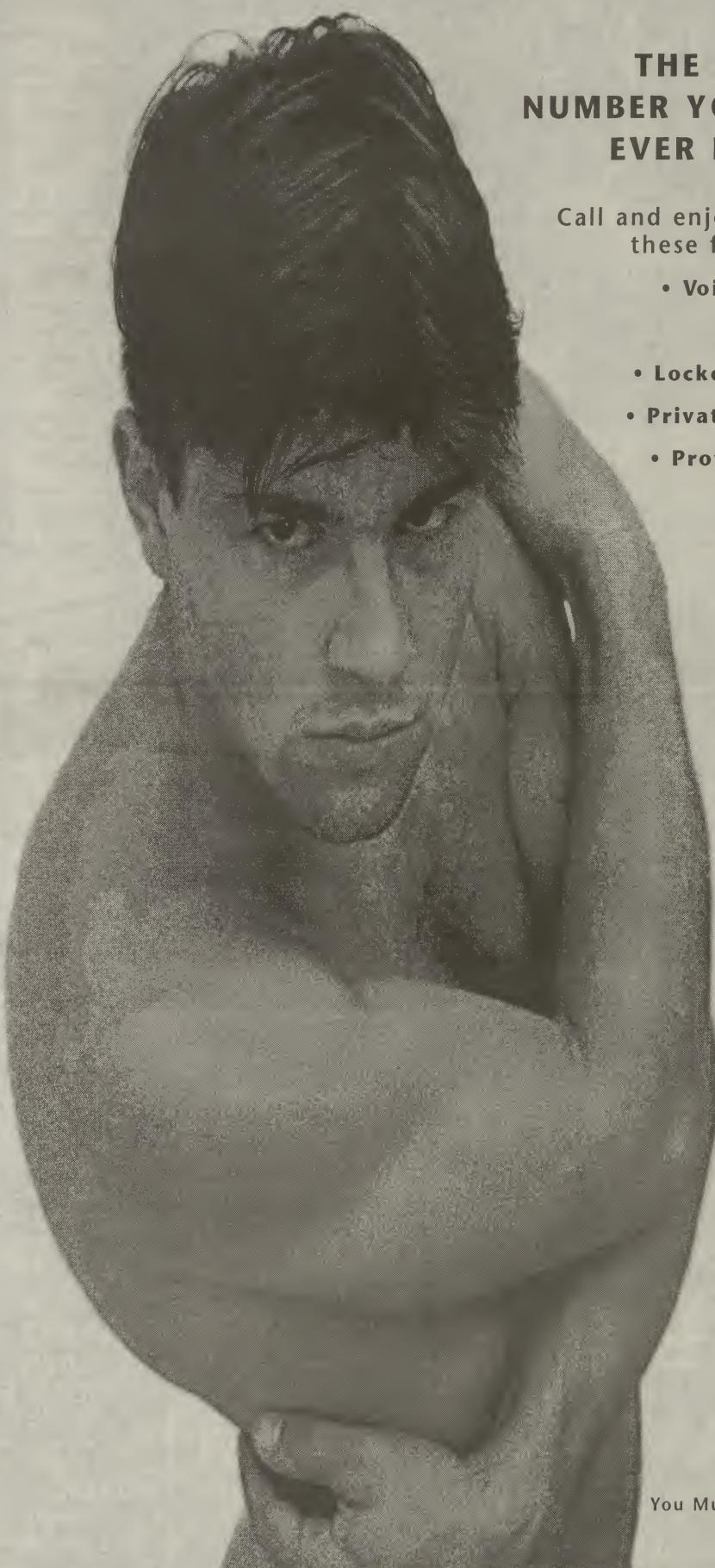
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advantages..."**

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